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THURSDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2012

Cowbridge choir sings out to help Welsh cancer care charity

Old Hall Gardens in Cowbridge was buzzing last Saturday, as Pink was the dominant colour for an event raising funds for Breast Cancer Care Cymru. It was all Pink, apart from the 'rock choir' (right) which came along to support the event. (For a full report, and more photographs by MIKE WILCOCK please see page 7).

POLICE APPEAL AFTER COLLISION

Police in Cowbridge are appealing for information, following a road traffic incident which occurred between Eastgate and Longmeadow Court in the town.

The owners of a Mini Cooper returned to their parked car and found the bumper had been badly damaged.

The incident took place at approximately 2.20pm on Friday, June 22. Anyone who may have information is asked to contact PCSO Serena James on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Council warns as dead horses are dumped

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE carcasses of young horses are being dumped in fields, lay-bys and grass verges in the Cowbridge area – and the Vale Council is threatening legal action if the culprits are apprehended.

In the early hours of Tuesday morning (June 26), the carcasses of two foals were found dumped in a lay-by off the A48.

They were quickly removed by environmental health officers.

This followed the dumping of five carcasses in a nearby field on the previous Saturday (June 23). A week earlier, three more dead foals were found dumped in the same area.

The Vale Council Trading Standards department is calling on local residents and those in the farming and equine communities to be vigilant.

Principal Trading Standards Officer Christina Roberts-Kinsey said: "The illegal dumping of carcasses will not be tolerated within the Vale.

"The discovery of these carcasses is highly upsetting for members of our community.

"Trading Standards will make every effort to identify the owner and those responsible for the unlawful dumping of these carcasses."

She added: "Not disposing of deceased livestock via the correct route is an offence and anyone found in breach will be prosecuted."

If anyone has any information regarding the above matter, contact Trading Standards on 01446 709105. All matters will be dealt with in the utmost confidence.

ANTIQUES SHOP IS BURGLED

POLICE in Cowbridge are investigating a burglary at the Antiques Centre on Eastgate, which occurred overnight on June 20-21.

It is believed it took place between 5pm on the Wednesday (June 20) and 9.15am the following morning.

The police say access was gained to the shop via a side window and a large quantity of silver antiques was stolen.

Detectives are appealing for any information from the public to help in the investigation.

Detective Sergeant Rob Davidson of Barry CID said: "This was a very unusual burglary, with a large amount of high-value silver antiques taken.

"I am appealing for any information from people in the trade who may have been offered the chance to purchase any of these antiques.

"I also want to hear from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the Eastgate area of Cowbridge throughout the night in question."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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POLL RESULTS AND ROYALTY

WITH reference to Paul Langmaid's reaction to my view on flags for the Jubilee (GEM letters, June 21) his assertion that my views are in a minority are incorrect.

Poll results depend on geography, age groups, financial situations, the media they are published in, and the occasion.

Results from the Valleys would be very different to southern England, for instance, and again markedly different when there is no Jubilee fanfare taking place. Overall, at least half the population agrees it is improper that the office of head of state rests by accident of birth, with a single privileged family – which was the point of my original letter.

With reference to the letter from John Matheson in the same issue, his description of "faultless service" differs from mine.

Anyone being waited on by teams of secretaries and servants, as the Queen is, would appear to give faultless service.

Marc Delaney,
Barry.

The monarchy versus republic

I AM writing in response to Dr Paul Langmaid's letter headed, 'Minority view on monarchy?' (The GEM last week).

He quoted a poll that indicated support for the monarchy is between 73-82 per cent, while those supporting an elected president totals 13-18 per cent. It's easy to pluck figures off the internet to support a view, so here are a few of my own.

Two referenda have been held in Wales recently – firstly, on a change to the voting system, and secondly, on more powers for the Welsh Assembly.

The turnout was 42 per cent and 35.2 per cent respectively. These apathetic figures suggest that a vote for the abolition of the monarchy would be similar.

This would give those of us who feel passionately about the end of hereditary privilege funded by the taxpayer, a realistic chance in a referendum.

The argument for a republic receives publicity when there is a royal celebration or funeral.

Either way, republicans are branded as party poopers or disrespectful.

An open debate about the monarchy, with a referendum to follow, would finally allow a level playing field for debate.

I'm sure that support for a republic would increase when you take mass hysteria out of the equation.

Tony Leat,
Barry Island.

Good Samaritans came to my aid

I WOULD like to thank all those caring ladies and gentlemen who came to my aid after a heavy fall in Kings Square, Barry, on market day, June 19, especially the lady who with her mobile phone contacted my husband, and organised help with the ambulance crew.

Due to the shock and some considerable pain, I was unable to get the names of these good Samaritans, but I am sure they will know who they are.

At 77 years of age, I have, in fact, badly fractured my right shoulder, broken ribs and have some bad bruising, and am under the care of the trauma clinic at the Heath, but now back home.

Once again, thank you all.

Val Archer,
Barry.

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Readers' Letters

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews. co.uk

£12,500 was raised for children's charities

'Book Festival's success all down to the volunteers'

I WOULD like to express my deep gratitude to all the willing volunteers involved in the recent Cowbridge Book Festival.

From the team who installed the equipment for the fun day, to Dorne Harris and her band of helpers, who were responsible for the wonderful refreshments throughout the week, many thanks.

Without your support, the festival simply would not have happened!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the participating authors and publishers who responded, once again, giving their time freely and with great enthusiasm to this fledgling festival. The festival would not have been possible without the help and cooperation of Sally Perini and her team at the Old Hall, Reverend Heather Weddel and members of the United Free Church, Claire Sheehy and the management at the Bear Hotel, John and Mathew at the Duke of Wellington, and Natalie Isaac and staff of The Quarter Penny Café.

Jaci Harries, Chris Howard, Russell Thompson, Pam Robbins, Rebecca Lloyd James and Dave Allen, all proved to be effective and articulate moderators, ensuring that all events ran smoothly.

The impressive photographic exhibition was the work of Mike Davies and Dave Allen.

Maggie Cooper and her stall holders created a great atmosphere at the Gruffalo family fun day, while Hugh and Sarah Bunkum's team made sure there was plenty of fun and games for the children.

An invasion of "mini-Gruffalos" was due to the face painting skills of the staff at the Fun Foundations Nursery – all money raised by this dedicated band of people is greatly appreciated.

Equipment for the fun day was lent by the Vale Rural Events Network and this was co-ordinated very efficiently by Sarah Jones and Rebecca Haves, who also helped with promotion of the festival through social media.

It was good to have the support of the Cowbridge Record Society, and Dick Tonkin's history walks were very popular, as was the CADS production of *The Squire of Gadshill.*

Our thanks to Ticketline UK who provided a wonderful service, ensuring that we were able to distribute tickets to a much wider audience this year. Jackie and Janet at David Barnes (drycleaners) were also very helpful in selling tickets. We are indebted to Jon and Angela Munn of Janda Photography who are responsible for our website.

We are very grateful for financial support from the Vale Council, Alchemy Wealth Management and Naturally Woodlands, Brynna, South Wales and all those who, so generously, sent donations.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the team at the GEM and especially Tim Chapman, who supported us with great enthusiasm and encouragement throughout.

I am sure your readers will be delighted to hear that the efforts of all these wonderful people have been rewarded with an anticipated £12,500 raised.

Donations to The Noah's Ark Appeal Children's Hospital of Wales and Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research will be made shortly.

Stella Cheeseman,
Ystradowen,
(*Festival coordinator*)

Contamination of Barry stream

I WAS interested to see the recent GEM article on an Environmental Agency warning, written by Philip Irwin, regarding contamination in the stream passing through Porthkerry Park.

Has the geography changed? Surely to state that it "flows onto the beach near Cold Knap" is in error! It flows onto Porthkerry beach, which is at least three-quarters of a mile from Cold Knap beach. This statement is repeated in another Barry paper.

I was pleased to see that the authorities have attached warning notices on various trees alongside the Millwood Walk and no doubt, other trees adjacent to the stream runs, but I doubt whether dog-owners will be able to prevent their dogs, most of which are unleashed in the park, entering the stream.

The stream permeates the pebbles at Porthkerry beach when it discharges from the culverted section at the beach-head into the sea. Have notices been placed there to warn would-be paddlers about the risk?

B P Mills,
Barry.

'No need for a Rhoose council'

WITH reference to GEM reports of a proposed community council at Rhoose, the Vale Council already serve our needs in Rhoose, grass cutting, bins emptied, recycling etc.

It would mean another hike in council tax – I was under the impression we had to tighten our belts!

Marjorie Voaden,
Rhoose.

Thanks to The GEM

THANK you very much! It was a wonderful surprise to win the theatre tickets in the recent GEM competition. The prizes you offer are of value, so please keep them coming.! Thank you again.

MB,
Cowbridge.

Hats off to the Lions!

I WANT to thank all members of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club for their brilliant organisation of the fayre last weekend, kindly hosted by Llantwit RFC.

It was a fantastic event that brought the whole community together – from charities to craft groups, to choirs and local businesses. All focused on the community.

The responsibility of planning and organising such an event, as well as individual stalls and fun activities, should never be underestimated.

Well done once again to all involved.

Alun Cairns,
(*MP for the Vale of Glamorgan*)

Remembering the forgotten ones on Armed Forces Day

THIS Saturday (June 30) the nation celebrates the commitment and dedication of our military personnel with Armed Forces Day.

This annual event is a time for us all to think about the work of those men and women who serve in our Forces.

We should also remember that behind these brave individuals are the parents, partners and families of our troops.

These people can sometimes be forgotten, but bear the burden of Service life as much as those who are serving themselves.

The Bridgend division of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help not only supports our Service personnel, past and present, but also their families and dependents.

SSAFA Bridgend seeks to find ways that we can help where there is a genuine need. This can be anything from support for a mother whose son has been seriously injured in conflict, to a new television for the elderly widow of a D-Day veteran.

It just takes one day's service to be eligible and that includes anyone who undertook National Service, and their wives or widows.

If you or someone you know in Bridgend county borough has served in the military or has a military connection and needs help, then the local branch of SSAFA is here to assist.

We can be contacted on 01656 785435.

Dave Davies TD,
Bridgend.

Has Barry had a heart transplant?

THIS is not the first time a complaint has been made that flags are not being flown in Barry on state occasions, when it is often the case that they are flying from the Civic Offices (GEM letters, last week).

The fact is that if Barry HAS a heart, it is to be found on King's Square. and that – as well as the Civic Offices – is where flags should be flown. It is there, and not in Broad Street, that we have a town centre.

I also feel that the placing of the Merchant Navy Memorial at its present site was a mistake. I think it should be on King Square. This is the heart of our town, and that is where it should be.

When the new Civic Offices opened, many people wrote that it was ugly. I was one of them, but thought that the plainness of the front would be relieved by the painting of the Vale coat of arms, in its heraldic colours, on the front of the building.

It never happened. What we see now, looks like a large black insect.

I hope that our new councillors, when they leave the building, will take a minute to turn around and look up.

I wonder if they are happy with what they see?

Let us hope that our new council will bring back some civic pride to Barry.

David Lloyd,
Barry

Let us know your views:
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 5)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
28 Thur	00.58	8.4	13.33	8.3
29 Fri	01.59	8.4	14.47	8.3
30 Sat	03.11	8.4	16.00	8.5
01 Sun	04.31	8.6	17.07	8.9
02 Mon	05.35	9.0	18.06	9.4
03 Tues	06.34	9.5	19.01	9.8
04 Wed	07.27	9.7	19.52	10.1
05 Thur	08.15	9.9	20.37	10.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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Rain stops play... BUT ONLY AFTER GREAT DAY OUT!

The Monday Club had a great time at Manor House Wildlife Park.

RAIN didn't dampen the spirits of members of the Cowbridge (Gateway) Monday Club – when they went on their annual mystery summer coach trip.

Thanks to the generosity of the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions and the Rotary Club of Cowbridge, carers, parents and friends visited Manor House Wildlife Park near Tenby (Anna Ryder Richardson's Welsh conservation-led Zoo) on June 21.

Everyone was able to walk around in the dry looking at the various endangered species, including wallabies, meerkats, lemurs, pygmy goats, Cameroon sheep, and more.

Manor House has joined the captive breeding programme, which will re-introduce white rhino back into the wild.

We all then met up and enjoyed a meal in the restaurant.

This was where rain stopped play – we had planned to visit Amroth on our return journey, to enjoy some sea air and an ice cream, but due to the heavy rain returned to Cowbridge with a coach of tired but happy people, with lots to talk about.

Thank you to all who made this day possible.

The Monday Club meets in the United Free Church Hall (Ramoth), Cowbridge – entrance via The Broadshoard – normally on the second Monday of every month from 7.30pm-9pm.

A warm invitation is extended to anyone (16 years plus) with a learning difficulty, to join our happy group.

Further information is available on 01446 773373, or 01446 781309.

ANN ROACH, (Secretary)

Reunion joy for Joy and Gill from Oz

ABOVE: Gill and Joy say the response to their reunion appeal in The GEM last week was simply 'unbelievable'.

Report by **TIM CHAPMAN**

'THANK you, Llantwit and thank you, The GEM!'

That was the message of two sisters from Australia who invited people in the town to a reunion at the King's Head last Saturday night, June 23.

Joy Green (68) and her sister Gill Wicks (64) whose maiden name was White, emigrated to Australia in the 1970s, but are 'back home' in Wales for an extended holiday.

Last week they issued an appeal in The GEM because they were keen to meet up with friends they knew in the forties, fifties or sixties.

The sisters had first lived at Stallcourt Avenue and later at Boverton, before emigrating.

Gill said: "Thank you to the people of Llantwit for responding, and to The GEM for publishing our appeal – it was unbelievable, more than 20 people turned up.

"We met Elaine, who lived with her parents in the shop next door to us in Boverton".

Joy said: "The evening went so well, we're meeting up again with some people later today (Monday)."

Joy was thrilled to meet old friends Rosemary, Joyce and Janice.

Gill said: "We also met John, someone we'd known at the Boverton Castle all those years ago."

Joy's husband, Mike, added: "We'd like to thank the King's Head because they were even kind enough to set aside some tables for us all and provide snacks."

The family will return to their home in Darwin, Australia next weekend.

Rotarians hand £1,500 cheques to local charities

ABOVE: Seren Evans, of the Stroke Association.

ABOVE: Geoffrey Jones with Lindsay Doyle of Ty Hafan.

THIS year's retiring president of Cowbridge Rotary Club, Geoffrey Jones, "had great pleasure" recently in presenting cheques of £1,500 each to Seren Evans of the Stroke Association and Lindsay Doyle of Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

Local antiques shop is burgled

RIGHT: Two of the silver antiques that were taken during the burglary.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Among the silver property listed as stolen are: two Champagne bottle holders; a circular fruit basket with four feet; a rectangular fruit basket; a set of four candlesticks and three pairs of candlesticks; a tortoiseshell and silver casket; an art nouveau jewellery box; five sugar sifters; a 1930s biscuit barrel; a small oval jewellery box; a pin cushion with maroon velvet; four Bon Bon dishes; three tea caddies; two perfume bottles; a silver salver; five photograph frames; two pocket watches; a silver framed mirror and an oval cased brass carriage clock.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Rob Davidson at Barry CID on 01446 731606 or Crimestoppers free on 0800 555111.

Get-together club for the over-fifties

OLDER residents at Bonvilston had their first over-50s club session on June 19 in the Reading Room at a coffee morning run by Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan's rural connections project.

The group will now meet every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon, with a lunch club on the last Tuesday of every month at The Red Lion from 12.30pm. There will be speakers and activities.

The first session proved popular with 19 people attending for a fun morning of chatting and listening to a talk given by Jane Platts, the Age Concern Rural Connections co-ordinator, about plans and aspirations for the group.

Age Concern Ageing Well coordinator, Nona Hextor, also gave an overview about some of the many services offered by Age Concern.

Jane Platts commented: "The first club session went extremely well. Lots of people said how nice it is to have something in their community that allows them to get out of the house and meet other people in the village and have a chat.

"One lady even commented that she had lived in the village for nine years and had only known two of the people in the room before the session!"

For more information, contact Jane Platts on 01446 795631, or email: jane.platts@age-concern-cardiff.org.uk

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PHOTO!

ALL the bell ringers at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge would like to thank Lucy Hailes very much for the photograph published in The GEM on Thursday, June 14,.

B Thomas, Cowbridge

Readers thanked

I WOULD like to thank readers of The GEM who supported our coffee morning in aid of Llanfair Primary School's centenary appeal.

It was lovely to see so many past pupils, who brought along photographs and shared stories with year-6 children.

We are now looking forward to our centenary garden party on Saturday, July 7, at 2pm, when all are welcome.

Mary Llewellyn, St Hilary, Governor, Llanfair Primary School.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

More choice for patients

IN addition to our consulting rooms and physiotherapy facilities at the Vale Hospital, Cardiff Bay Clinic and Vale Clinic (in Hensol), we are now pleased to offer our patients even more location choice for their appointments.

From June 2012, Vale Healthcare is delighted to be offering orthopaedic consultation appointments and physiotherapy treatment in the Cowbridge & Western Vale Group Practice, which will allow expert treatment and rapid access appointments on your doorstep.

Tim Atter, Business Director at Vale Healthcare, said: "We've developed a great relationship with the GPs and patients at the Cowbridge & Western Vale Group Practice, and we see this as an opportunity to offer patients more choice in where they receive their treatment.

"We're thrilled now to be able to offer the people of Cowbridge (and surrounding areas) appointments close to home, and hope that it will have particular benefit for those patients recovering post-operatively in terms of physiotherapy treatment.

"Initially, our service will offer physiotherapy appointments with Andrew Massocchi (Senior Physiotherapist at Vale Healthcare) and orthopaedic consultation appointments with Mr Rhys Williams and Mr Geoff Graham, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons, all from the practice."

For more information in the consultant and physiotherapy services available, please contact our bookings office on 02920 836714. The Cowbridge & Western Vale Group Practice is at The Broad Shoard, Cowbridge, CF71 7DA.

(SEE ADVERT ON PAGE 8)

Civic Service

THE town will put on its most traditional face this Sunday (July 1) when the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Nicola Thomas, holds her Civic Parade and Service.

The parade will be under the instruction of the parade marshall, Flight Lieutenant Dave Palmer of the ATC, and will make its way from the town hall to Holy Cross Church at 10.30am, with the Civic Service starting at 10.45am.

Weather dampens the planned walk

BONT FAEN WI'S walk around Colwinston had to be postponed due to the weather; however, we enjoyed an excellent meal at the Sycamore Inn.

A spokeswoman reports: We were far more fortunate for our cream tea meet – the sun shone, the garden looked wonderful, and the home made scones and jam were first-rate.

Mrs Joyce James came to speak to us on 'writing your memoirs' on June 21.

She informed us how important it was for us to share our memories of our childhood and how many things have been invented and changed over the years, even for our 'younger' members.

Many members shared their memories and all in all it was a fascinating evening.

This was followed by the business meeting, when members were encouraged to take part in Federation events and the report from the AGM was read.

The annual mystery trip is taking place on Saturday, August 11.

The next meeting, on Thursday July 19, is held in a member's garden.

We take a break for August and resume our meetings on Thursday September 13, when Mel Bastian and Claire will give us a demonstration on willow weaving.

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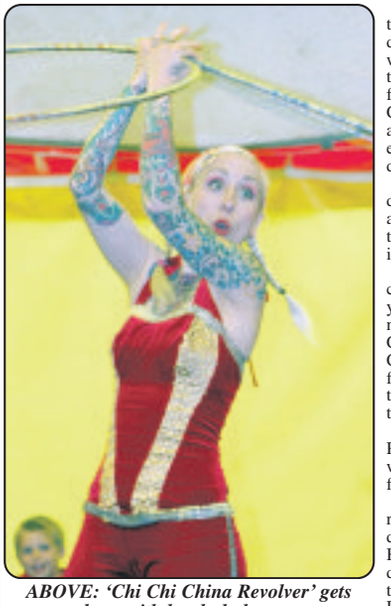
Y Bont Faen Primary pupils enjoy their own circus – followed by a summer fayre!

ABOVE: There was a good turn-out for the summer fayre.

Y Bont Faen pupils performing at the circus.

ABOVE: Harvey Kwan was one of the raffle winners.



ABOVE: 'Chi Chi China Revolver' gets busy with her hula hoops.

Photographs by **TRACEY WATSON**

EARLIER this month, the Y Bont Faen Primary School PTA organised a very special event when the circus came to town!

School spokeswoman Jayne Morris reports:

"The children were so excited when they arrived to see a big top on their sports field – as if by magic it had appeared overnight!

"The PTA had organised a whole weekend of fun and entertainment, which carried on despite the rain and windy weather. What a way to welcome our guests from England to our lovely country!

"There was a full day Thursday for all the children to take part in the circus, learn some new skills and be introduced to Henry the dog – the star of the show!

"They learnt to spin plates, juggle and do some acrobatics!

"On Friday, the 90 lucky children who had won a place in the circus were taught their acts.

"They all went home very excited children and came back as brilliant circus performers.

"The parents loved the shows from the children and everyone would like to say a huge thanks to Fred and his flying circus, and 'Chi Chi China Revolver' – an amazing hoola hooper – and also Henry the dog!

"On Saturday,. the day began with the annual duck race, and the river was fast flowing and very cold!

"The school's 'duck catcher' for the last three years, James Morris, now in year-7 at Cowbridge Comprehensive, won first prize for the first time, after entering for the previous eight years!

"Second prize went to Rhys Williams, third was James Skilling and fourth Eleri Morgan.

"The parents got rather wet too, as it decided to rain just as Hazel Gambling, the duck race organiser, threw the ducks in to the River Thaw!

"Poor Leona had to catch an onslaught of ducks at the end of the race.

"Never mind, the parents all came back to school for the annual summer fayre.

"Thank goodness for Donna Brown, who organised everyone with military precision and saved the day!

"Local businesses have been really supportive and sponsorship came from Sylvia Williams, who sponsored nails and tattoos, and The Bear Hotel, who sponsored an 'adopt a bear from Patagonia' stall! The bears were a real hit with the children!

"Mrs Carole Bird provided a beautiful English tea shop and made all the cakes herself.

"There were loads of stalls and games, including a bouncy castle and face painting, ECO Council recycling, garden club flowers,a rock shop, refreshments and barbecue and the weather did not beat us!"

"I would like to extend a huge thank you from all the PTA to everyone who helped organise the event, run stalls, those who bought things, and to all those children who took part and performed so brilliantly!

"We raised a smashing £1,900 at the last count!

"Thanks to Kirsty and Felicity for setting up a MYDonate site to make ticket selling and the handling of such large amounts of cash easier for everyone.

"We hope that the larger community enjoyed it too, as many new faces were seen on the day.

"We had three very good ring masters in Gwennie Phillips (year-1), Elin Lowrie (year-1) and Katie Gardner (reception), along with three really good tiger tamers in Michael Wilkes (year-4), Evie Kwan (year-2) and Gwennie (year-1)."

ABOVE: Fred, of Fred's Flying Circus.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH No. 6 COWBRIDGE) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2012

On the 28th June 2012 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

The Order will come into force on 9th July 2012 and will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Public Footpath No 6 Cowbridge) (Temporary Closure) Order 2012.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein

on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 9th July 2012 apply to the High Court for this purpose

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall proceed on foot in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location The section of footpath that extends between High Street and Poplar Park, Cowbridge. (This footpath is known as Cowbridge number 6).

Alt. Route The diversion for this closure shall be via High Street, Church Street and along the footpath know as Llanblethian number 44 into Poplar Park, and visa-versa.

Reason This closure is required in order to maintain public safety while construction work takes place on adjacent land, the site of the former garden centre.

Duration From 9.00am on Monday 9th July 2012, for a maximum period of six months or completion of works, whichever is earlier

Signing: Appropriate temporary signing will indicate the alternative route.

Dated this 28th day of June 2012

M. Punter,
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

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Family wish Rosa Keeling 'many happy returns' at 100th birthday celebration

ROSA KEELING celebrated her 100th birthday with a family gathering at The Manor House in St Hilary, where she has been a resident for just four weeks.

Rosa was born in Birmingham on June 19, 1912, and until May lived with her husband of 71 years Bill at their home in Dinas Powys.

Bill is currently in hospital following a fall.

Maggie Harris, Rosa's daughter, told The GEM: "Rosa moved to Dinas Powys from the Midlands with Bill and the five children in the family in 1957 and quickly became known in the village.

"She was a distinctive figure, going everywhere on her bike or at a fast-paced walk, often laden with shopping.

"Over the years, she has been an avid gardener, keeping her family supplied with fresh produce from the large plot at Glen Acres, St Andrew's Road.

"My mother was an active member of the WI, and held various offices over the years.

"She loved dancing, and even when she and my father could no longer cope with ballroom, she kept fit with line-dancing and yoga, well into her nineties."

Over the years Rosa has put others first and befriended a number of ladies who were alone, visiting until quite recently.

Maggie said: "My mother lost her father at the age of 10, lived through the Depression, the bombing raids, and many other difficulties of the war, and in 1980, her youngest child, Rosemary, died at the age of 26.

"She dealt with adversity in her own, quiet way, never complaining, and always faithful to her strong belief in our obligations to the environment.

"She has been a true 'Green', long before the term was coined. She is known in the village for her steadfast refusal to accept lifts, whatever the weather, preferring to walk everywhere."

Maggie added: "Rosa is a survivor and we as a family are delighted to see her so content and well cared for after a lifetime of caring for others.

"Her four children and partners, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, were united in wishing Rosa 'Many Happy Returns of the Day'!"

ABOVE: Rosa at The Manor House, St Hilary, celebrating her 100th birthday and surrounded by her family.

'Lyn the Leap' opens Pendoylan school's Olympic celebrations

Welsh Olympic gold medal winner, Lynn Davies, with sports journalist Peter Jackson and pupils at Pendoylan CW Primary School.

SPORTS journalist Peter Jackson and Wales' Olympic gold medallist, Lynn 'the Leap' Davies, opened Pendoylan CW Primary School's 'Olympic Fortnight' celebrations recently.

'Lyn the Leap' spoke inspirationally to the children about his achievements and showed his gold medal and London 2012 torch.

Mr Jackson regaled the assembly with training advice and anecdotes from Mr Davies' career, including the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, where he won gold at just 21 years of age, with a long jump of 8.07m.

"We measured and marked out the distance in the hall and seeing it is believing it. The distance is astonishing," said a school spokesman.

'GRAND TOUR' OF TRUST PROPERTIES

THE Vale National Trust enjoyed their week-long spring break staying at the Queen Hotel in Chester.

The party of 40 members including the president, Sir Brooke Boothby, were joined by friends from the Cardiff branch.

The vacation included a mix of National Trust properties and other places of interest.

Our first stop was Trentham Gardens and Estate, Stoke on Trent where we walked around the lake, the newly-restored Italian gardens and forest walks.

The next day took us to Dunham Massey where we were able to look into the somewhat scandalous lives of a couple of long gone earls!

A short drive took us to Tatton Park with its fine Gillows furniture and many other collections original to the house.

Our next visit took us into 20th and 21st century science and technology at Jodrell Bank with a very informative talk and tour. Many people were unaware of the actual size of the Lovell telescope.

That afternoon, we visited Quarry Bank Mill and enjoyed an excellent tour of the Apprentice House.

Liverpool was our next destination with the Blue Badge guide who joined us at Albert Dock and led us on the coach around the city with a stop at the Roman Catholic Cathedral and a tour of the interior of this modernistic structure.

On our journey we visited the National Memorial Arboretum, where we wandered at ease in the chapel, the Armed Forces Memorial, or specific sites that held meaning for individual members.

The party returned home after a thoroughly enjoyable holiday.

Vale National Trust meets at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge, monthly between September and April, and 'away days' are arranged during the summer months.

JEAN POWELL

Choir hears of Macmillan's great work

Gwyn Thomas (left) and Cowbridge Rotary chairman Peter Evans.

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir held its annual hog roast event at Cowbridge Rugby Club on Saturday, June 23, when the highlight of the evening was a passionate speech extolling the virtues of the Macmillan Nurses charity, by Mr Jeff Cowland.

He is well known for his involvement in charity walks over many years with Sir Ian Botham. Jeff was chosen to carry the 2012 Olympic flame for 300 yards through Bryncethin and played basketball for Wales.

A past president of Rhondda Valley Rotary Club, he is employed by Rhondda Cynon Taff as an adviser on adult special needs in the community.

On display in the club was the torch Jeff carried in Bryncethin, which he kindly allowed to be handled by those present.

As a result of his commitment to the Macmillan Nurses, a collection was organised and the sum of £80 donated to the cause.

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir's next concert is on Wednesday, July 4, at 7.30pm in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, where they will play host to the Metropolitan Male Voice Choir of South Australia.

Jeff Cowland will be a guest at the concert and will bring with him the Olympic torch, to be displayed in the church.

The concert is in aid of the Parkinson's UK charity.

RP

First soulful gospel, next blues and rock

Kesed performed at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

THIS Sunday at 7pm at the Duke, Vale Church will be hosting the First West Band from Louisiana, an eight-piece band performing blues, soul, jazz and rock classics.

The band is made up of professional and semi-professional musicians. Entry is free.

Last Saturday, Vale Church hosted Kesed at the Cowbridge leisure centre, who lived up to their reputation as a dynamic contemporary gospel band, producing driving, soulful vocals without compromising tunefulness or close harmonies.

Auto-tune was not required for this group, who would put many a professional artist in the shade.

The pounding rhythm section was lively and tight. Song of the evening was a 'mash up' of the Jackson 5's 'ABC 123' with a gospel song, demonstrating a refreshing and creative approach to modern gospel music.

Neil Harvey shared some of his life story, which was at times both sobering and humorous, but always inspiring. Some people took the opportunity to get a signed copy of his autobiography 'Uncaged'.

This was a first class event and we hope to put on more of this nature in the future. Vale Church would like to thank Holy Cross for providing the drum kit.

We would also like to thank the leisure centre staff who were very attentive and also Sound Media Solutions for delivering great audio.

ALUN GRIFFITHS

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

THE St Brides Major produce market will in future be held on the second Saturday of each month starting on July 14.

New stallholders are welcome. Anyone interested can contact St Brides Major Village Shop, or the St Brides Major website at *www.stbridesmajor.co.uk*.

WICK Chapel held their annual flower communion service on Sunday, June 24, marking the 90th anniversary of its inauguration at a church in Prague.

The service was attended by Minister Julian Morgan and the congregation exchanged posies of flowers to commemorate the day.

SUNDAY, June 24, was open day for the gardens of Castle-upon-Alun.

The weather was much better last weekend and the gardens were a delight.

THE annual Youth Festival will be held at Ewenny Priory on June 26-29; concerts at 5.30pm.

MOTHERS' Union corporate communion will be held at All Saints, Southerndown, tomorrow (Friday, June 29) at 10am.

Inquiry after pet terrapin found in river

THE RSPCA is appealing for information after a terrapin was fished out of the river Ogmore.

A member of the public noticed the exotic pet struggling to climb up a concrete bank before sliding back in to the water on Wednesday, June 20 at Aber Road in Ogmore Vale.

RSPCA inspector Nigel Duguid said: "Pet shops often sell terrapins very cheaply, but they are quite tricky to keep. They can grow quickly, need large aquaria with appropriate basking areas and their water must be changed regularly.

"It is unacceptable to dump an animal like this. Not only it cruel, but terrapins are a non-native species and so could potentially have a harmful impact on other wildlife. We would urge anyone with information about this matter to contact us as soon as possible."

The terrapin is now in the care of the RSPCA. Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact the RSPCA cruelty and information line on 0300 1234 999. Calls will be treated in confidence.

Judge tells man who preyed on children: 'You have shown no remorse whatsoever'

10-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE FOR PYLE PAEDOPHILE

Crown Court report by AJ SICLUNA

A paedophile who preyed upon children, has been jailed for 10 years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Barrie Mably (31) of Heol Ty Maen, Pyle, abused four girls. He was found guilty at a previous hearing of one charge of attempted rape, four of indecent assault and two of sexual assault. He was cleared of a charge of rape.

Judge William Gaskell told him: "You have shown no remorse whatsoever and you maintain your denials, despite compelling evidence. You have received no credit for a guilty plea."

Prosecutor Matthew Roberts said the offences occurred over a 10-year period in the Pyle and Ogmore Vale area.

Mably denied all the charges and claimed the girls had been lying.

His counsel Jennette Treharne said: "He is not predatory and did not lure his victims. This behaviour occurred when he was alone with them."

She pointed out that he had already been on remand for 18 months.

"Some of the offences were opportunist, and isolated. At the time he was in his late teens and early 20s."

Mably, she said, had some problems in the past relating to his mental health.

"Upon his release, he wants to start afresh in Bristol, in an area where he is unknown. He has no relevant convictions."

The judge said the offences occurred between 1999 and 2009.

One girl was aged nine, another aged six.

He pretended to play a game with them and shortly after, indecently assaulted them.

One girl aged eight was held against a bed and Mably attempted to rape her. She was then told not to say anything.

Another two victims were aged seven and nine, and one of them was humiliated by Mably.

The judge directed that when released, he register as a sex offender for life and he was banned from working with children indefinitely.

Judge Gaskell also imposed a Sexual Offences Prevention Order, which forbids Mably from approaching any girl under the age of 16.

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Association's fishing spectacular is a success

Laura Goldsmith of Valleys Gateway Day Centre

Rhys Edwards of Heronsbridge School

ON a pleasant sunny day in June, members of the Bridgend and District Disabled Association supervised a fishing competition at Seven Oaks fishery, Ystradowen, Cowbridge.

Our thanks go to the owners of Seven Oaks, for hosting the event.

Taking part were 24 children and adults in total, comprising six in each team from Heronsbridge School, Bridgend, Ysgol Bryn Castell, Bridgend, Pencoed School and the Valleys Gateway Day Centre, Sarn.

The competition proved to be special and enjoyable for everyone, with a marquee set up by the Rotary Club and refreshments provided.

The theme of the day was to create a carnival atmosphere, with some helpers dressed up in cowboys and Indians outfits.

This added to the excitement and success of the 24 competitors, who each caught two fish for a total of 48 fish landed on the day.

The overall result was extremely close and the winner was based on the weight of fish caught by each of the four teams participating:

Heronsbridge School – total weight $12^3/4$ lb; Ysgol Bryn Castell – total weight $12^3/4$ lb; Pencoed School – total weight $13^1/2$ lb; Valleys Gateway Day Centre – total weight $13^3/4$ lb.

The chairman of the association, Mr Ralph Merchant, awarded special medallions to the individual team member who recorded the heaviest bag of two fish.

Kyle Cranford, Pencoed School.

Ryan Woodridge of Ysgol Bryn Castell

Karen Tregoing, daughter of Byron Morgan, presenting the Cup to the captain of the winning team.

The winners were: *Heronsbridge, Rhys Edwards; Ysgol Bryn Castell, Ryan Woodridge; Pencoed School, Kyle Cranford; Valleys Gateway Centre, Laura Goldsmith.*

The main presentation of the day 'The Byron Morgan Cup,' was proudly handed to the captain of the winning team, Valleys Gateway Centre by Karen Tregoing, the daughter of Byron Morgan, who congratulated the team on their success.

The committee of the Bridgend Fishing for the Disabled Association undertake similar events once a month throughout the year.

This is a most rewarding experience in assisting members of the community, and volunteers are always welcomed to assist for two to three hours on the day.

For anyone interested, fishing experience is not essential. Contact Mr R Merchant on 01656 660683. **JD**

'Beware scam computer calls'

THE police in Cowbridge have issued a warning to people not to fall for a computer scam.

Local people in the area have received calls from a person purporting to be from a major computer company who claims that a householder's PC or laptop has a fault which they can solve – a payment is required up front.

PCSO Hilary O'Callaghan said: "One local woman has already lost money to this scam and other people have had calls. Our advice is to ignore this sort of call."

Last year, The GEM highlighted a case in St Athan in which a woman paid for a caller to solve a 'fault' on her computer. The man worked on her machine remotely only for it to end up with viruses.

She then had to take her laptop it to a local computer shop to be rectified.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Ascot fashion!

ONCE again, The Star Inn, Treoes, became the venue for ladies from the surrounding area to celebrate Ascot ladies day on June 21.

It may have been miserable weather outside and at Ascot, but the Star was warm and cheerful. Having enjoyed a glass of Pimms and a delicious two-course lunch, the ladies watched the races on multi-screens.

Jo Reed of Bridgend won the best hat competition, having just picked her fourth winner.

The local Eisteddfod appeal committee raised £464 and wishes to thank Clive and Trish and the staff at the Star for all their hard work.

Thanks also go to Huw from Coychurch for running the book and to the ladies who turned up in their finery to enjoy themselves and offer their support.

St Canna's, Llangan

ST CANNA'S was filled to capacity for the concert by the popular Minnesingers, which took place on Friday, June 15.

Pathway

THE path from the entrance to the church cemetery to the vestry is now completed with a non-slip surface. This will be a great help to visitors.

Village link

A TALK by Carys Whelan on the beautiful Physic Garden in Cowbridge will take place in St Canna's restored vestry on Wednesday, July 18, at 7pm, cost £2.

Community Council

AT the Llangan Council meeting on June 11, Coun K Jones (Treoes) made a request for part of the former tennis court to be dedicated to Saron Chapel.

This request has been made by Friends of Saron on several occasions, but for legal reasons the local community council is unable to fulfil it. Also, as far as I know, residents of Llangan and St Mary Hill would need to be involved.

Coun Mrs E Mathews (Treoes) requested notice of meetings to be displayed on notice boards, with information regarding dates and where meetings are being held.

Coun Mrs Hayball Jones reported a blocked drain where the pipes need cleaning and sorting, the landowner needed to be informed.

Coun Hayball Jones, on returning to her home, found dead hens killed by a dog out of control. This has been reported to the local police.

Over the many years I have attended the council meetings, I have endeavoured to give a true and honest report.

I was always given a copy of the council minutes by the former council secretary, Mrs M Major, and if this is continued by the new secretary to the council, I will continue my reporting of council meetings in The GEM.

The Old Hall Gardens turn pink for the Strawberry Tea in aid of cancer charity

THIS Saturday Cowbridge High Street turned dazzling pink to support Breast Cancer Care Cymru!

Shops, businesses and the community enjoyed a Strawberry Tea party in the Old Hall Gardens, an event co-ordinated by local resident Sally Harrop

It was part of Breast Cancer Care's Strawberry Tea summer fundraising campaign, sponsored by Seasonal Berries.

Highlights from the day included the opening of the event by the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Nicola Thomas, and ITV Wales' Jonathan Hill and Ruth Wignall introducing 'The Rock Choir', who were attempting a UK-wide Guinness World record.

A 'super choir' – made up of three local rock choirs from Cowbridge, Ponyclun and Bridgend – started singing the Bryan Adams and Mel C hit, 'When You're Gone' – simultaneously with hundreds around the UK, promptly at noon .

Local fathers and sons took part in a 'fathers versus sons' Sevens rugby tournament at Cowbridge RFC ,and the Cowbridge fire station held a charity car wash.

Sally, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010, said: "I'm overwhelmed by the support we received. Everywhere you looked you could see shops and businesses decorated in pink, it was overwhelming!

""While it was a real party atmosphere it is important to remember the real reason why we did this. The money raised will make a huge difference to the lives of those affected by breast cancer. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone."

Rachael Power, area fundraiser at Breast Cancer Care Cymru, said: "I speak on behalf of the entire organisation when I say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped to make the event such a success."

The Pontyclun Rock Choir.

ABOVE: Cowbridge Mayor Coun Nicola Thomas and her consort, Coun Andrea Burges (right) enjoying a tea and cake.

Pictures by
MIKE WILCOCK

RIGHT: Ruth Wignall and Jonathan Hill from ITV Wales.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

ON Saturday, June 16, the usual tea and chat started the day off in the church hall, with a visit from local MP Alun Cairns, and then everyone moved off to the carnival.

St Brides Major Three Villages Carnival will live on in the memories of many! The day arrived with high winds and driving rain, and when the floats arrived at Rivermouth, Ogmore-by-Sea, it had eased a little as they travelled along the coastal road to St Brides Major, with villagers braving the elements to line the pavements along the way.

At the Green in Pant St Brides, the 'walking' procession of excited children all dressed up for the occasion, and the wonderful dogs with their carriages, made quite a spectacle.

Arriving at the vicarage field they were greeted by more villagers, then on to the field full of tents and a huge marquee with lots of stalls. Inside the marquee, the choir gave a rendition, and also the Zumba group gave a demonstration. Face painting was an attraction, and outside there was a tractor display and tug-of-war competition.

A big thank you to the carnival committee for all the weeks of hard work and meetings to organise this superb event, and also to Chris Davies for the use of his Vicarage field.

I was privileged to travel with others in the new safari trailer of Peter and Rosmond Davies of Slade (Pitcot Farm), which fortunately was covered and shielded us from the wind and rain (we travelled the route in style).

A big thank you to Richard, who drove the enormous tractor and negotiated the difficult road bends with dexterity (well done!).

The ages of the people travelling in the trailer ranged from seven to 92 years old – and all thoroughly enjoyed the ride, with singing all the way!

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Cash aid for schools in Armed Forces' catchment area

by PHILIP IRWIN

SCHOOLS in the Vale have been given grant aid to help Service families overcome any difficulties as they settle in to their new schools.

Seven schools in the Vale were delighted recently to receive notification that their bid to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to get funds to support Forces families had been successful.

Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, and its six feeder primary schools, St Illtyd, St Athan, Llanilltud Fawr, Eagleswell, Rhoose and Wick, worked with Army and Air Forces personnel from the St Athan base to put forward the bid, which will total just over £65,000.

A school spokeswoman said: "Elements of the bid include employing a family and schools' support officer, who will work alongside two parent pupil support officers currently working in the comprehensive school.

"Their role will be to liaise with six part-time Learning Support Assistants in targeting support for Forces families for wellbeing, literacy and numeracy in the primary schools.

"The grant will also enable the primary schools to buy additional resources to support the project.

Mrs Leanne Pownall, assistant headteacher at Llantwit Major High School, said: "We are delighted to receive this grant. It will enable the very effective transition work between our schools to develop even more".

BLUE FLAGS FLY AGAIN IN THE VALE

BLUE FLAGS have again been awarded to Barry Island's Whitmore Bay and Penarth Marina for their respective beach and marina facilities.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council said: "Across the world, Blue Flag status provides an instantly recognisable guarantee that waterside locations meet recognised standards including cleanliness, certain facilities, readily available water safety information, a clear commitment to environmental education and high standards of water quality for bathing."

Celebrating Blue Flag status at Whitmore Bay, from top left, Colin Smith, Vale Council works manager; Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the council; Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for business innovation, regeneration and economic development planning and transportation, including tourism and Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sports development.

Elderly forum

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales (OPC) Sarah Rochira visited Barry Central library recently, to promote the Elder Abuse Awareness Day event hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Older People's Strategy Forum (OPSF).

The newly-appointed commissioner said she intends to spend much of her time talking directly to older people and older people's organisations, to hear the concerns of older people in Wales.

The forum welcomed MP Alun Cairns, Jane Hutt AM for the Vale, and Janice Birch, Vale Deputy Mayor, who came to give their support to the Awareness Day event.

PDSA offer free MoTs for dogs

VALE dog owners will be able to bring their pets along for a free health check at PDSA's PetCheck vehicle, which returns to the Vale between Wednesday, July 11-Friday, July 13.

The veterinary charity's annual UK-wide PetCheck tour, which this year celebrates its 10th birthday, will be at the following locations from 10am-5pm:

Wednesday, July 11 – Victoria Park, Victoria Park Road, Cadoxton, Barry;

Thursday, July 12 – Porthkerry Country Park, Barry;

Friday, July 13 – Llantwit Major RFC, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major.

A PDSA Vet Nurse will examine the weight, body-shape, teeth, eyes, coat and general fitness of canine visitors, and will also offer free advice about other pets.

Microchipping and nail clipping will be available at a low cost.

For safety reasons, only dogs can be brought along to the PetCheck vehicle.

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT, *June 28, Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, Tynewydd Road, at 6.30pm.*
BONVILSTON *coffee and Chat, June 28, Red Lion Public House at 11am.*
ST ATHAN PACT*, July 1, Gathering Place, 2pm.*
YSTRADOWEN *coffee and chat, July 3, Village Hall at 11am.*
CADOC PACT*, July 3, Palmerston Community Learning Centre at 6pm.*
ILLTYD PACT*, July 4, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, 7pm.*
COWBRIDGE PACT, *July 9, Fire Station, Druids Green, 7pm.*
LLANTWIT PACT*, July 10, Llantwit Leisure Centre at 7pm.*
ST BRIDES MAJOR PACT *surgery, July 11, Ogmore-by-Sea Lifeguard Hut, 7pm.*
WENVOE PACT, *July 11, Wenvoe Community Hall, 7pm.*

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VALEPLUS' 10th 'BIRTHDAY'

THIS picture was taken at the recent garden party marking the 10th anniversary of ValePlus in Barry.

The charity provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, and was set up in 2002 by two teachers Melanie Carter and Steve Thomas.

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Charity welcomes commissioner

AGE CONCERN Senior Health Shop was delighted recently that Sarah Rochia, newly-appointed commissioner for older people spent her first morning at the shop in Holton Road, Barry.

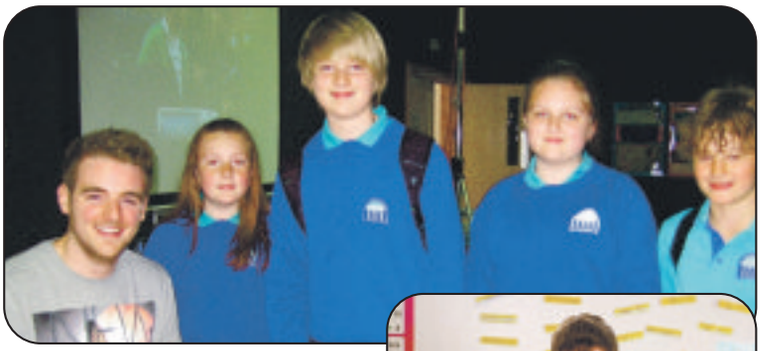
The shop is run by older volunteers for other older people and the community. She remarked: "It's an inspiration to us all. What comes across so strongly was just how much energy and drive older people have, and how the support, advice and friendship provided by people at the centre is for some a lifeline'."

During the course of the morning, she joined in a class, remarking on the friendliness of the group.

The visit also made the lunchtime and evening news highlighting her visit.

She said she would visit the centre again in six months to report what had been attained, and thanked the volunteers for all their hard work and dedication. **GF**

News in and out of class at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg



YSGOL Gyfun Bro Morgannwg pupils have been taking part in the annual 'Scientific Mathematical Competition' set by Bangor University.

The competition is open to year-8 pupils and every year there are over 1000 participants from across Wales.

Every participant receives a certificate and prizes are awarded to those who are judged to have reached the highest standard. With the cooperation of Urdd Gobaith Cymru, the prizes are awarded annually at the Urdd National Eisteddfod.

Very few pupils reach the pinnacle – some seven or eight throughout Wales – and so the fact that three pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, in care of their teacher Mr Ithel Davies, have succeeded to reach such heights deserves recognition.

Many congratulations to the following pupils on their success:Aled George, Rhodri Davies and Brendan Scott.

IT was a pleasure to welcome Tom Blumberg, one of Bro Morgannwg's first pupils, back to school recently.

Having graduated from Mountview in London, Tom is now acting on Rownd a Rownd on S4C. It was a memorable experience for years 7, 8 and 9 to hear more about his budding career as an actor, his early years in Bro Morgannwg and the importance of the Welsh language to him.

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Tribute to motorcyclist who died in road crash

Darren Hancox.

SOUTH Wales Police have named the man who died following a road traffic collision on the Ewenny road, on June 20, as Darren Hancox.

He was aged 38, and was from Llanedeyrn in Cardiff.

His parents, Garry and Tegwen, paid tribute to him, saying: "Darren was a much-loved son and brother to Amanda, brother-in-law to Matthew, uncle to Cerys and Cameron, and close to family friend Sian.

"He was an experienced motorcycle rider and was always working on his bike to keep it in perfect condition.

"Motorcycling was his great passion.

"He worshipped his niece and nephew and was dedicated to his family. He lived life to the full and was always calm, smiling and happy.

"We are all devastated and heartbroken and will cherish all the great times and wonderful memories Darren gave us."

He had been a taxi driver in Cardiff for the past four years.

A police spokesman said: "The collision happened when Mr Hancox was riding his Honda 600cc motorcycle towards St Brides Major on the B4265 road from Ewenny, when it collided with a white Ford transit van that was travelling in the opposite direction."

Police are appealing for anyone who witnessed the collision, or saw the manner in which the vehicles were being driven prior to the collision.

Officers are also particularly keen to speak to two pedal cyclists who provided assistance at the scene.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Roads Policing Unit on 01656 869332, or 101, or Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111.

Airport task force group's first meeting

A NEW high-powered body, set up to consider the future of Cardiff Airport, met for the first time yesterday.

It met in the aftermath of recent strong criticisms voiced by Carwyn Jones AM, the First Minister.

Passenger numbers have declined in recent years, while in contrast, its nearest rival, Bristol Airport, has seen passenger numbers rise significantly

Mr Jones has forced the pace on discussions, once telling a debate in the Senedd that he would not bring visitors into Wales through the airport because it gave a poor impression.

He has also called on the airport's Spanish owners, Abertis, to either invest in it, or sell it to someone who will.

The First Minister chaired the first meeting of the Cardiff Airport Task Force yesterday (Wednesday).

The special group, set up by the First Minister, included representatives from Cardiff Airport, St Athan Enterprise Zone, British Airways Maintenance, CBI Wales, the South Wales Chamber of Commerce, trade unions, the Vale Council and the Welsh Local Government Association.

Llanmaes Festival

LLANMAES FESTIVAL, in partnership with the Blacksmith's Arms beer festival, will be held on Saturday June 30, on the village green between 1pm and 5pm.

There will be a whole host of attractions, including traditional games such as splat the rat, hook-a-duck, stocks, skittles, individual stalls, and dog show and agility course. This year will also see the Aberthin Tractor Boys. Admission free.

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For timetable and further details of classes and other services, checkout the website at: www.solutions-fitness.co.uk

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Camping in the Vale hits 'Perfect Pitch'

Alun Davies, Deputy Minister for European Programmes with Nicola Sumner-Smith, Creative Rural Communities, and four of the new campsite proprietors at the launch of 'The Perfect Pitch: Coastal Camping in the Vale'.

FIVE Vale landowners are preparing to welcome more than 4,000 campers to their new trial campsites this summer, following their official launch on June 14.

As the Vale prepares to host this year's National Eisteddfod, and with spending on domestic camping and caravan trips up 11 per cent last year, demand for camping sites in the area is expected to increase dramatically.

Funded by Creative Rural Communities, the six new campsites, collectively known as 'The Perfect Pitch: Coastal Camping in the Vale', are part of a trial to help local landowners to diversify their business while meeting the demand for camping in the area.

The six new temporary campsites each have their own unique selling points, which include pick your own picnic spots, close proximity to the new Heritage Coast and open spaces for family fun and games.

Following its 'Pride in our Farming Families' scheme, which aimed to encourage farm diversification, Creative Rural Communities found that a number of farmers were interested in opening campsites.

Creative Rural Communities launched its Coastal Camping pilot scheme as part of the Pride in the Vale project at the end of 2011, offering landowners assistance with planning, funding, licensing and practical requirements needed to set up trial campsites.

As a result, six suitable locations were identified to develop temporary campsites which have the long term possibility of acquiring full planning permission, should the trial be a success.

Glyn George is co-owner of the Heritage Coast Campsite with his wife Philippa. He said: "In these difficult economic times the Perfect Pitch is going to have a positive impact on struggling rural communities, creating employment opportunities and attracting visitor spending in the area.

"With the 'staycation' set to be even bigger this year, the support from Creative Rural Communities has really given us a kick start to set up a campsite for families and couples in Monknash.

"From licensing, planning and health and safety, to marketing and grading, we've also been given some expert advice through the initiative, so we're ready and rearing to go. We can't wait to welcome our first campers this summer!"

Alun Davies, Deputy Minister for European Programmes, who officially launched the new campsites, said: "It's great to see how this project is using Welsh Government rural development plan funding creatively to provide alternative income for farm businesses and landowners, as well as providing huge benefit for the wider rural community."

Nicola Sumner-Smith, senior rural regeneration officer at Creative Rural Communities, said: "These six new campsites will be a welcome addition to the accommodation offer in the Vale. With the additional influx of visitors expected to attend the National Eisteddfod 2012, we look forward to being able to provide alternative accommodation to cater for a wide range of campers."

For more information on The Perfect Pitch: please go to: www.perfectpitchcamping.co.uk.

Open garden

BROADCLOSE FARM, Broadclose, Moulton, CF62 3AB, will be open to the public on Sunday, July 8, from 1pm-5pm.

It has a relaxing, colourful garden planted from scratch 14 years ago,a fruit orchard with many unusual varieties, eg: apricots, mulberries, perry pear. There are roses in borders and over arches, many leftovers from show gardens – statues, woven willow sheep as seen at Hampton Court last year, box edged herbaceous borders, and herb and soft fruit.

SPECTRUM SINGERS WOW ST LAWRENCE

The Spectrum Singers performed at St Lawrence at Lavernock.

THE concert by the Spectrum Singers over the recent open weekend at St Lawrence at Lavernock was played to a full house.

The sung programme – directed by Stuart Edwards – was complemented by carefully selected readings from Shelagh Greenland, and the whole evening proved to be an ideal mid-summer performance.

The interior of St Lawrence had been decorated by the Friends flower group on a theme of celebrating the local community, incorporating references to many local attractions and places of interest.

MK-O

Advisors

ON July 3, Ian Folks, from the MS Society in Cardiff, will be at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, from 10am to 12 noon to give advice to carers and their families. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Arthritis advisor Gillian will be available on Thursday, July 5, at the Senior Health Shop.

A POPULAR CHOICE PARK CRESCENT, BARRY...

Customer service key for family businesses

THE Park Crescent and Romilly area is at the heart of Barry's West End, with businesses providing niche services for the town's community.

Here the emphasis is on family concerns giving that extra individual attention to customers – something national chains can find difficult to deliver.

Meryl Hopkin, of Room Designs, is celebrating the second anniversary of her interior design business, which in the last two years has gone from strength to strength.

Meryl explained: "We get lots of recommendations from people who have been so pleased with our service that they have told their friends about us.

"People appreciate the fact that we offer free consultations and advice before they make the decision on what they want to do."

Room Designs prides itself on its friendly, helpful staff.

Meryl added: "To celebrate our second anniversary, we are running a special offer throughout the whole of July.

"If anybody brings in our advertisement from The GEM they will get 10 per cent off the 'Prestigious Fabrics and Wallpaper' range."

For animal lovers, Care4Pets is a godsend. Alison Moya has been providing services for pet lovers for 12 years.

"We started with an agency providing 'home boarding' for dogs so that they didn't have to go to kennels, which can be stressful. They go to the carer's home.

"We also provided dog walking, house visiting for smaller animals, or homes with multiple pets – everyone is CRB checked."

Now, Alison and her fully-trained members of staff offer dog grooming at their salon in Park Crescent.

"We have six groomers in all and operate six days a week from Monday to Saturday.

"We can do all breeds and sizes of dogs, and poodles are a speciality.

"An average price for a groom would be £25."

The salon also supplies lots of 'doggy' and animal accessories such as beds, coats, collars and the like.

Alison is also happy to give people advice, particularly in the early days with puppies when people are unsure about how to deal with a particular issue.

Florantina Florists, which is owned by the Kellaway family, adds that splash of colour to Park Crescent.

John explained: "The shop was started by my mother and father, Jan and Den, 22 years ago.

"We're a Barry family and provide bouquets for anniversaries and birthdays, and specialise in funeral tributes."

The shop is a kaleidoscope of colour, exuding the perfume of hundreds of flowers.

Two hundred yards further down Park Crescent, straight across the mini roundabout, and onto St Nicholas Road, is The Grapevine, a store for all those with a passion for wine – it has its own customer car park.

The Grapevine provides a great selection of wines from around the world at prices that more than compete with national supermarkets.

Added to that, Alan Petersen and the staff will offer expert opinions on what wine will be the best to lighten the mood of an evening or complement a meal with friends.

The staff are qualified in the General Wine Certificate of Knowledge too.

There's a huge choice of chilled wines, beers and cider – but a lot more besides.

Alan explained: "We now have an additional general convenience section which means people can pick up things like bread and milk, and we have a 'deli' selection too with cold meats, cheeses, bacons, sausages, hams and eggs.

"We have recently made a couple more additions to our drinks range – Fentimans soft drinks and San Pellegrino soft drinks."

The Grape Vine is open every day from 9.30am to 10pm except on Sundays, when it opens at 10am and runs 'til 10pm.

Other businesses also provide valued services throughout the daytime and evenings.

The Park public house enjoys a steady stream of customers who enjoy having a drink while they watch the afternoon racing, or evening cricket or football on TV.

Harvey's Fish and Chips on Vale Street helps out busy families who want to spare themselves the chore of cooking at lunchtime or the end of the day.

It trades across lunch hours and from 5pm to 10pm daily, apart from on Sundays.

The march of supermarket chains means that small and medium sized retailers need the support of the community more than ever.

The Park Crescent, Porthkerry Road, and Romilly area businesses are run by local people committed to their customers, so next time you're in the area have a browse – you'll like the things you see and the people you'll meet.

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ABOVE: Why bother to cook when Harvey's fish and chip shop staff can provide your meals at lunchtime or in the evening?

ABOVE: Alan Petersen, the manager of The Grapevine, with the deputy manager, Doreen Oakley.

ABOVE: Just4Nailz in action!

ABOVE: The popular beauty salon Just4Nailz.

Alison of Care4Pets, provides every possible service the discerning animal lover could want.

Top quality food at Tea in the Park

ABOVE: Tea in the Park has a mouth watering array of meals, snacks and drinks for all times of the day – and also has 'The Boardroom', which provides a venue for business meetings and provides catering.

TEA in the Park is a newly established, family-run tearoom in Park Crescent.

Melanie and Charlotte Peters run the tearoom with help from all the family – husband Dave and twins Robert and Rachel.

Tea in the Park is inviting, stylish, light and airy. It is the only outlet in Barry that serves 'Teapigs' high quality whole leaf teas in unique tea temples (a roomy, biodegradable mesh bag, which offer all the space whole leaves need to infuse properly).

Tea in the Park also boasts Fairtrade organic coffee which is ground freshly daily, Dinkum Schmoo milkshakes which are 99 per cent fat free, Fentimans drinks and Pago juices in addition to conventional beverages.

Melanie said: "We prepare baguettes and sandwiches fresh to order, using only the finest ingredients.

"There is always a tempting selection of homemade chutneys and relishes, homemade cakes gluten-free and cream teas.

"A popular menu choice, the breakfast rolls, use only 95 per cent meat sausages and 'spoilt pig' bacon and there are also vegetarian alternatives."

Tea in the Park also caters for business meetings in 'The Boardroom' – a sophisticated, executive facility ideally suited to meet your organisation's requirements for meetings, interviews, training etc.

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Girlguiding UK girls in the lead

Barry Scouts & Guides 2012 Annual Fete

Saturday 7th July 2012, Romilly Park Barry - Gates Open 12pm

scouts be prepared

Scouts and Guides head for Romilly Park, and their biggest day of the year!

EXCITEMENT is building in the Vale – as we are just days away from the 59th Barry Scout and Guide Fete, which will take place at Romilly Park on Saturday, July 7 with the official opening at 1.15pm.

Cathie Steele, the chairman of the fete committee, told The GEM: "Our local Scout and Guide groups are totally self-funding organisations with no Government financial support.

"It costs more than £120,000 per annum to run these local groups, all of which has to be raised by our supporters – and the Barry Scout and Guide Fete is an important part of this ongoing task.

"This year's fete will feature Gerard Naprous and the Devil's Horseman, as well as the usual Scout and Guide Arena event."

Gerard Naprous is a stunt co-ordinator whose film credits include working on *War Horse* with Steven Spielberg.

Entry to the fete is by programme, costing £2, which includes a free lucky prize draw for great prizes.

Cathie explained: "Programmes are now on sale so we'd ask people to contact their nearest group; alternatively, you can purchase a programme at the gate on the day.

"The fete committee would like to thank all of our sponsors, patrons and helpers. We give particular thanks, though, to our Scout and Guide leaders, for giving the children and young people of Barry and District a wonderful life-changing opportunity."

The first ever Scout fete was held at Romilly Park in 1933, when it was called Kymspaumi.

After a break during the years of the Second World War, the annual fetes were resurrected.

In 1985, the Scouts invited the Guides to take part, too – since when it has gone from strength to strength.

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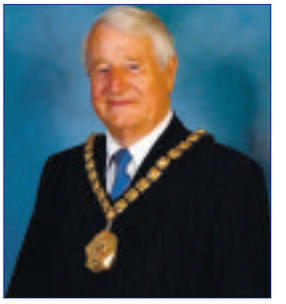
Barry Scouts and Guides 2012
The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Councillor Eric Hacker, is pleased to support the Barry Scouts and Guides 2012 fete and wishes them a successful event



Sgowtiaid a Geidiau'r Barri 2012
Mae Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y Cynghorydd Eric Hacker, yn falch o gael cefnogi Gwyl Sgowtiaid a Geidiau'r Barri 2012 ac yn dymuno pob llwyddiant iddi.

THE MAYOR OF BARRY
COUNCILLOR
LES SWORD
Wishes the Barry Scouts and Guides a Successful Fete

Young harpist Georgia (23) brings her own brand of folk to Cowbridge

ABOVE: Diners enjoying the music. (PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE WILCOCK).

THE Cowbridge restaurant Arboreal recently hosted its first live music event – the first of a series of four.

Harpist Georgia Ruth Williams was the performer, and a spokeswoman for the restaurant said that her music had been "mesmerising and completely captivating".

Georgia has performed her compelling hybrid of folk and blues at Glastonbury, the Greenman Festival and at HMV's Next Big Thing Festival.

In the last year, her songs have been played on BBC Radio 1 (Huw Stephens), the 6Music Breakfast Show, Tom Robinson, and BBC Radio Wales.

Georgia, aged 23, has recorded an EP (released by Gwymon on 10" vinyl) which features vibraphones, pianos and organs combining with the harp to create a slow-burning warmth.

ABOVE; Harpist Georgia Ruth Williams.

Children's author at Cowbridge Library

Author Eurgain Haf shows her work to year-4 and 5 pupils at Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg.

YEAR-4 and 5 pupils from Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg enjoyed a trip to Cowbridge Library recently to meet Welsh children's author Eurgain Haf, who has written several books for children, including *Stablau Seren* and *Siencyn a Dan Draed*. MW

Royal stamp of approval!

Evan Pryce (year 6) at Y Bont Faen.

CHILDREN from local primary schools helped set the scene for staff and learners at Palmerston Adult and Community Learning centre when they hosted a tea party to celebrate the Jubilee.

Learners and staff enjoyed music from the fifties and an old-fashioned tea of home made cakes.

Schools were invited to enter a competition to design a royal stamp. More than 350 entries poured into the centre.

"We been overwhelmed by the number of entries we have received" said Adult Learning Manager Debbie Lewis."The designs have filled the walls from floor to ceiling! We have queens, castles and corgis in their hundreds. It has given us a wonderful display for the Jubilee Celebrations and for our adult learners to enjoy!"

Winning designs were selected from each school and each received a Royal Jubilee Goody Bag.

Keon Year 1 Cadoxton Primary.

Courtney – Infants of Palmerston Primary.

Jayden – Reception of St Helens Infants School.

Cora –Year 6 of All Saints Church in Wales.

Jenna –Year 4 of Holton Primary.

Arron –Year 4 of Sully Primary.

Imogen –Year 6 of Llangan Primary.

Evan –Year 6 of Y Bont Faen.

Palmerston centre thanked schools for taking part and learners and staff for their contributions to the royal tea party, which raised funds for breast cancer research.

Vale MP drops in on Older People's Strategy Forum event

Vale MP Alun Cairns, chairman Mike Edwards, vice chairperson Lynda Wallis and Jane Weldon, chairperson of Age Discrimination.

VALE MP Alun Cairns called in to meet the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum team as they held an awareness event at the Central Library in Barry last week.

The forum held the day-long information and elder abuse awareness event to ensure that as many people as possible could find out about the forum and the services it provides.

The Vale MP was welcomed by chairman Mike Edwards, vice-chairperson Lynda Wallis and Jane Weldon, chairperson of Age Discrimination.

With a host of information stalls within the library, visitors to the event were able to find out useful information regarding housing, the benefits available for the elderly, volunteering opportunities, the handyvan service and how to recognise elder abuse.

Mr Cairns said: "It was great to meet the team at the Vale Older People Strategy Forum event.

"The Forum provides a vital service for the older generation right across the Vale, and this event was a great way to let people know about the benefits and support available."

To find out more about the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum, visit: www.valeopf.org.uk.

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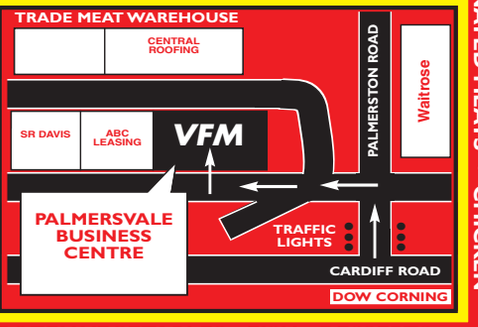

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Generation X art opened at Porthkerry

Deputy Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Councillor Janice Birch and the chair of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum, Mike Edwards (right) and the young people and artists with one of the sculptures.

GENERATION X, a collection of wooden sculpture produced as part of an intergenerational art project, has been unveiled in Porthkerry Park.

The Generation X project was funded by the Arts Council for Wales and brought together the Vale of Glamorgan's Older People's Strategy Forum and young people from the area to share their memories and views of life in the Vale.

Artists Laura Gower and Kate Murphy then designed six pieces of work for the project.

During the week of February half term, participants worked together to create the sculptures in Palmerston Community Learning Centre.

Now completed, the collection has been moved to Porthkerry Park, as part of the Woodland Trial, where it will remain for local residents and visitors to enjoy.

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51 01 FORD Focus 1.6. Met blue, 5-dr, MoT 2013, Tax Sept 2012, 80,000 miles, fsh, a/c, e/w, c/l ...£1,995

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THIS ROCK OF AGES SINKS LIKE A STONE!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

THE cinematic musical underwent something of a transformation with the advent of *Moulin Rouge!*

Gone were the slavish adapations of stage musicals like *Guys and Dolls* and *South Pacific*, as Baz Luhrmann and co created a musical for the 21st century.

Since then the likes of *Chicago* (traditional) and *Mamma Mia!* (non traditional) have benefited from the resurgence in the genre, claiming awards and plenty of box office.

The latest stage musical to reach the big screen is *Rock of Ages*, which follows Drew and Sherrie (Diego Boneta and Julianne Hough), small town kids who find themselves caught up in 1987 Los Angeles with rock at its zenith, at a venue run by Dennis (Alec Baldwin) and Lonnie (Russell Brand).

However, will the course of true love run smoothly for the pair, or will the likes of rock star Stacee Jaxx (Tom Cruise) and slimy manager Paul Gill (Paul Giamatti) get in the way...?

With an all-star cast, a superb soundtrack and based on one of the better stage musicals currently showing, the stage was set for *Rock of Ages* to deliver the goods and send the audience home headbanging.

Sadly, the only banging your head will be doing will be against the nearest wall as you wonder why you just sat through such an inane film, and why such talented actors have found themselves embroiled in it.

The stage show is one of the best I've seen in terms of its desire to bring entertainment to the masses, and while the story is simplistic enough, its sense of fun and playfulness mark it out. While the big screen incarnation makes several narrative changes (arguably for the better), it is severely lacking in its devotion to all things 'rawk'.

The problem lies with Adam Shankman, whose remake of *Hairpsray* was a enjoyable enough, if overly saccharine, effort. Unfortunately, those sentiments are brought far more to the fore here, the film lacking in the scuzz and grime of the scene at this time period and instead handing out life lessons and *Glee*-style joy and delight.

While the stage show gets the balance just right, and tells its story with its tongue in cheek, here the script plays like American Idol's rock week, like *High School Musical* having a midlife crisis, and is all the poorer for it.

Shankman's direction is well-judged, giving the film a sense of scale and choreographing the 'tunes' with a degree of style, but in making it too glossy he sucks all of the fun out of it, playing it a little too straight, while the multiple narratives are ill-served by the director, the characters feeling shallow and giving you nothing to really cling onto.

The cast don't exactly help the sitation, with leads Diego Boneta and Julianne Hough feeling about as rock 'n' roll as Jedward, and coming across like TV talent show winners who fancied a career change.

Their acting is poor and their singing more at home with Mr Cowell and company, the pair no doubt picked for their looks rather than talent.

The theme of performers miscast runs throughout the cast, with Tom Cruise bringing a great deal of fun and humour to the role of washed-up rock Stacee Jaxx, but looking too old for the role; while Russell Brand brings his usual comedy charm but saddles himself with an accent that appears to have covered more of the British Isles than the Olympic torch.

Paul Giamatti is, as always, good value as the oily svengali, but Alec Baldwin looks like a man about to face a firing squad, obviously uncomfortable with the singing aspect and his performance, as you would imagine, suffers because of it.

The saving grace, really, is the soundtrack, with every conceivable 80s rock anthem on show – and let's face it, if you can't savour a bit of 'Wanted Dead or Alive', 'Don't Stop Believin'' or 'We Built This City On Rock 'n' Roll' then you're no friend of mine.

It's just a shame the rest of the film isn't up to this standard; as it is, this *Rock of Ages* just sinks.

VERDICT: A poor attempt at bringing a brilliant stage show to the screen, *Rock of Ages* just doesn't cut the mustard. This is the sort of film that will appeal to people buying Ramones t-shirts, never having heard one of their records. It's a rock-free journey with a story that just doesn't engage; save your money and go and see the stage show. *Avoid.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Mamma Mia!* (2008), *Moulin Rouge!* (2001)

School's concert

YSGOL Sant Curig is holding a gala concert in the Memorial Hall Barry on Monday, July 9, at 7pm. Tickets are available from the hall's box office on 01446 501365.

Vale ramblers explore the Ogmore Valley

AFTER meeting centrally at Cowbridge Town Hall car park, the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers made their way to Cwm Ogwr - Ogmore Valley, arriving at the start point on an industrial estate in the village of Blackmill.

The group made their way through the village towards Dimbath Lane, following this for a short stretch, before entering the forest and walking up Cwm Dimbath.

This path was very wet and muddy after all the rain recently, and the river was full and was flowing rapidly.

After having coffee, we made our way out of the valley, passing quite a few waterfalls on the way, as the water made its way down to join Nant Lechyd.

Crossing the common at the top of the valley, there were signs of work being carried out in the building of a wind farm.

We then entered the forest at the other side of the valley. Climbing over stiles, having to limbo under fallen trees, and paddling in some places along the path, this certainly made the walk interesting.

After leaving the forest, we came to a clearing and the views across the valley to Glynogwr were worth the effort. In the distance, we were able to see the wind farm which is above Llantrisant.

After lunch the weather closed in, and as we continued on our way, enjoying the views across the valley to Lewistown, it became obvious that we had walked past the path that we were meant to take. Backtracking, we found the correct path, and followed it back to Blackmill.

For more information, visit: valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk.

Gwenda Fitzpatrick

Vale MP praises agricultural valuers at AGM

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns recently addressed members of the South Wales & Monmouthshire Association of Agricultural Valuers following their AGM in Miskin.

Hilary Evans, who works for Watts & Morgan in the Vale, was concluding her year as chairman of the branch.

Mr Cairns said: "The valuers work hard to maintain close contact with organisations representing rural interests, and they help provide input on many issues raised for the countryside in these rapidly changing times."

Works opens up to public

TO celebrate 100 years at Aberthaw, Lafarge Cement UK is holding a public open day on Saturday, July 21 from 10am to 3pm.

Manager James Kirkpatrick said: "We are very keen to share our centenary celebrations with as many local people as possible. Aberthaw Works has played a very important part in the local economy and communities of the Vale of Glamorgan for a long time.

"It is important to us that we mark this milestone by opening up our doors for people to come on site and find out more about our operation in the 21st century.

"The open day will include tours of the works and quarry, an exhibition giving an interesting overview of the 100-year history of the site, and displays from other local companies and organisations.

Rock 'n' Roll

PENARTH Holiday Week Rock 'n' Roll Dance comes to the Paget Rooms again with Owen Money on Friday, July 13 from 8pm until 11pm.

Tickets are £12 in advance from the Windsor Bookshop, Penarth, or telephone Paul Barrett on 02920 704279.

There will be 50s clothes stalls, as well as a raffle, in aid of the Marie Curie hospice.

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Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA

Boot sale

THERE will be an indoor boot sale on Saturday, June 30 at St Athan Community College Centre. Sellers 12pm-4pm, public 1pm-4pm. Tables £4. Contact 01446 730100 or 01446 754179.

Councillors' surgery

DYFAN Labour councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell will be holding a drop-in advice surgery for residents of Dyfan ward this Saturday, June 30 at the Highlight Community Centre, from 11am to 12 noon. No appointment needed.

School fayre

YSGOL Cymraeg Sant Curig (PTFA) holds a summer fayre on July 5 at 3.30pm in the school grounds, College Road, Barry.

Meet and greet with S4C's Sali Mali and Sam Tan; stalls; fun and games. Entrance, adults 50p; children 25p.

Charity quiz

THERE will be a charity quiz night at the Swan Inn, Nottage, on Sundays at 5.30pm and all proceeds go to Ty Hafan children's hospice.

It will be followed by 'Rock 'n' Roll Bingo' to round off an evening of fun.

Cowbridge choral concert

ON Friday, July 6 at 7.30pm, Cowbridge Choral Society will present a concert at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, which includes modern music, music from the musicals, as well as some classical pieces.

The concert will also feature harp solos and piano solos from some of the young musicians at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Tickets cost £8 and are available from Davies Newsagents in Cowbridge and choir members.

Annual meeting

THE annual general meeting of the St Nicholas (Barry) Community Association will be held on Friday, July 6 at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, at 7pm.

Eisteddfod fundraiser

A TASTE of Wales dinner will be held at the West House Country Hotel, Llantwit Major, on Saturday July 7 at 7.30pm, where a delicious six-course menu, using locally sourced foods, will be available.

Price: £40 per person, to include welcome drink of Patagonian wine.

Tickets from 01446 796147, or: enq@westhouse-hotel.co.uk.

Rugby 7s

SOUTH Wales Police RFC present the Colin Hillman Invitation Sevens on Sunday, August 26 from 11.30am-6.30pm at Waterton Cross, Bridgend.

Admission £4, OAP £1, under-16s admitted free.

Vale Photographic

THE Vale Photographic Club (VPC) had a great season with our full and diverse programme ensuring there was something for everyone.

VPC meet on Fridays at the Village Hall in Ystradowen from 7.15pm, and our new programme commences on September 7.

Visit: vale-photographic-club.co.uk/ and click on the link 'Friday Night Summer Evening Programme' for further details. New members, both young and old, amateur and professional, always welcome.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D728.

- **£2,000:** 140582.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 385963, 492199, 509398, 291834, 270152, 931940, 187936, 858700, 424704, 954436, 525805, 851885, 743362, 457528, 301776, 580551, 342727, 571670, 268808, 546891.
- **£5:** 447790, 590349, 359225, 114165, 849309, 227026, 819286, 284490, 889625, 115568, 238541, 208430, 259454, 685356, 171371, 538636, 278563, 870259, 671884, 320792, 692516, 467854, 827529, 276397, 764556, 701513, 615221, 938593, 134234, 428236, 400730, 194643, 554961, 777467, 253632, 520577, 393595, 371565, 251133, 847576, 551052, 582289, 588862, 470049, 185601, 642573, 407984, 478975, 828552, 309271, 699392, 513022, 383195, 541099, 588060, 360714, 577057, 264585, 562882, 496461.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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Cats Protection open its doors to the public

CARDIFF Cats Protection is holding open days this weekend at Sunnyside Cattery, Wayside Cottage, Station Road East, Wenvoe.

They take place on Saturday, June 30 from 2pm-4pm, and Sunday, July 1 from 2pm-4pm.

There will be kittens and cats looking for good homes, all vaccinated, chipped, deflea'd, wormed and neutered.

The event is held to highlight the work of Cardiff Cats Protection.

Dawn, of Cardiff Cats Protection, feels it's: "not just about boarding cats, but helping cats with no homes who deserve a second chance.

"It's a local charity and not many people know about the work it does.

"Please come along if you are looking to adopt a cat or kitten for life."

For more information, telephone Fran on 07976 058708, or Dawn on 02920 594755.

TV dancing couple's demo

TO celebrate Guide Dogs for the Blind's 80th anniversary, the Vale branch recently held a ball.

The highlight of the night was a dance demonstration by the most successful dancers on BBC's Strictly Come Dancing – Darren Bennett and Lilia Kopylova.

Darren and Lilia introduced themselves to people on each table, as they worked their way around the dance floor, giving everyone the opportunity to take photographs.

The couple later gave a flawless dance demonstration of a Samba, and after a quick dress change by Lilia, this was soon followed by a sensual Rumba.

Another dress change and we were treated to an exhausting and upbeat Jive, followed shortly after by the American Smooth, danced to Memories, sung by Elaine Paige.

Darren and Lilia then gave everyone the opportunity to ask questions about Strictly Come Dancing, such as: "*Why does Anton du Beke get all the older ladies to dance with*?" and: "*What criteria is used to team celebrities with professional dancers*?"

A raffle then took place, with a lucky lady and gentleman winning the chance to dance with Darren and Lilia. The two winners were then given the chance to show their moves with a *Cha Cha Cha!* **JC**

Armed Forces Day displays

SPECTACULAR air and arena displays will be included in this Saturday's Armed Forces Day at Cooper's Field, Bute Park, Cardiff.

It will coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Falkland's conflict and is organised by the South Wales Armed Forces Day committee, supported by the Welsh Government, Cardiff Council, the Ministry of Defence and local organisations.

The day will feature performances by the Welsh Guards Band, local bands, and a special performance by Will Kevans, a UK-based singer-songwriter and Falklands veteran.

There will be a commemoration service, a Veterans' parade through Cardiff and military stands, which include an inflatable assault course and climbing wall, plus charity stands.

Special features throughout the day will be displays by the amazing RAF Falcons parachute display team and a fly-past over Cooper's Field by an RAF Dakota.

The event starts at 10am. Details at: www.armedforcesday-wales.co.uk.

Wellies and waterproofs at the ready, for carnival and dance!

WE would like to thank everyone for putting their wellies and waterproofs on and joining in the spirit of carnival day, which showed St Brides Major's community spirit.

The day began with an amazing amount of floats that met up with the carnival queen, attendants and page boys' float at Ogmore-by-Sea, where they battled against the high winds and heavy downpour.

Thank you goes to the farmers who lent us their tractors, trailers and also drove them.

People participating in the float procession ranged from retired residents to the very young.

We travelled through Ogmore, Southerndown and finally into St Brides Major. It was encouraging to see people standing on the pavements waving and cheering.

At St Brides village, in fancy dress, were playgroup children, with leaders Auntie Amanda and Auntie Yana carrying the banner.

They were joined by the New Foundland Association, and this was a stunning sight to behold, massive black furry dogs towing little carriages behind them – thank you to the handlers and to Beverley Lambert.

Behind them came two Shetland ponies with carriages and their riders, who gave the children rides when we arrived at the field.

There were the vintage tractors, Play Aloud, fairground attractions, Southerndown Life Savers, Coastguard, fire tender and barbecue.

Inside the marquee were the craft stalls, information stands, food stalls, cream teas, licensed bar and seating area.

The afternoon entertainment, in the marquee due to the inclement weather, began with a dog display by Susie Lindsay of Southerndown, followed by the Atlantic College Choral Group and finally a very energetic Zumba dance display.

To round off the afternoon, a Tug 'o' War tournament was held in memory of Barry Jones (Big Barry) who had lived in the village all his life and was an all-round sportsman. The Barry Jones shield was won by the Farmers Arms, where coincidentally, Barry's father was chef for many years when it was first turned into a restaurant over 40 years ago.

The shield was presented by Barry's youngest sister, Sandra, to the winning team at the dance in the evening.

The lucky programme cash prize, donated by J & J Motors of Laleston, was won by Mr M Boulton. The winner of the dance ticket was Mr A Houston, who won a three-course Champagne dinner for four people, donated by Ros and Phil.

After the presentations, we danced the night away to local band Scarecrows and DJ Seymore.

Special thanks go to Christopher Davies (CPD) who gave the carnival committee (at no charge) his time prior, during and after the carnival, the use of his field, electricity and water. Last, but not least, a big thank you to all our loyal volunteers.

GLADYS MATTHEWS
(for the carnival committee)

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COWBRIDGE
Meet the people...
SUMMER Seasonal update

A WARM WELCOME...

ON behalf of Cowbridge town, may I extend a warm welcome to the National Eisteddfod, setting up as I speak on our very doorstep, and may I bid an even warmer welcome to all visitors throughout the coming year.

Since time immemorial, people have visited our wonderful rural market town. Granted a Royal Charter in 1254, we are proud and protective of our traditions and heritage.

Its old Roman road tells the story of how the Romans came and settled here before 400AD.

Visitors still come from far and wide and it is not uncommon for many to want to stay.

Cowbridge offers a warmth and a welcome few towns in the whole of the UK can boast.

Having been built up around the agricultural community that surrounds it, and nestled in a natural bowl of green hills, inside its 13th Century town walls, Cowbridge boasts The Bear Hotel, an historic Old Coaching Inn, and still a central focus for accommodation in the town – and just a short drive from the beautiful Glamorgan Heritage Coast.

From Coun Nicola Thomas, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Cowbridge still retains, to this day, a quaint, rural character with its working livestock market, its castle, the wonderful Holy Cross Church and the historic town hall.

Added to this we have modern Cowbridge, thriving, with a progressive Chamber of Trade. Its members, along with the town's people themselves and the local council, strive to ensure a wonderful community spirit that is shared with all who visit.

There is fashion week, and festivals celebrating books, food, music and jazz, and Christmas trees!

There is also the annual reindeer parade, all open to the public to come and share with us and enjoy.

Much merriment as can be found in our pubs, clubs, restaurants, bars, cafes, and coffee shops – you can also find a corner in its many parks, or the famous Physic Garden, to sit in peace and tranquility.

Cowbridge has opportunities for all types of sport and leisure facilities from yoga to rambling, from rugby to bowls, from bicycles to bridge, and many many more!

For a shopping experience second to none, Cowbridge offers so much. Designer shops to die for, bespoke boutiques, food stores of excellence, gift shops galore, chocolatiers, hardware, bicycle shops and furniture restorers, antiques to art galleries, stationers to off licences – you name it and Cowbridge, I am confident, will provide.

So may I welcome you all,
from where ever you roam,
Cowbridge is waiting to make you at home,
We will wine you and dine you and treat you with care,
So you'll return to your home and say:
"It's true – I was there!"

Cowbridge – a market town that moves forward while staying in touch with its past

by PHILIP IRWIN

COWBRIDGE is proud of being a small town – a small market town at that – and this leaves it treading a delicate line between preserving its charm and character, while at the same time evolving in the modern world.

After all, a town without active traders who bring new ideas and services to the area is just a museum piece, and everyone living or working in Cowbridge knows how important it is that the town should be economically active.

As a result, the town has evolved an 'unofficial' development plan, putting together projects and events to strengthen its sense of community, and also creating high-profile festivals that are aimed at attracting visitors.

These activities, in turn, generate visitors, creating much-valued 'footfall' in the shops, and it all means that new traders are keen to come to the town.

A good example of this is Steve Bell, who recently opened 'Kookie's Kitchen' in the Happy Days market in Church Street.

He told The GEM: "I have been working in the area for several years now, and have been on the lookout for a cafe in Cowbridge for ages.

"It was always my first choice and it has been fabulous so far. I get a mix of people coming in to eat.

"There are regulars who tell me that they keep on coming back, and first timers who say they will definitely be returning.

"There's also a great community spirit in the town."

The recent Queen's Diamond Jubilee gave the town a chance to demonstrate that community side, with a well-attended lighting of a beacon on the downs above the town, followed by a street party on the next day, organised by a variety of local groups.

That street party was intended to be based in and around the town's impressive Physic Garden, and in the Old Hall Gardens, revamped in the last 18 months by a dedicated group of volunteers.

However, Jubilee Tuesday was not a great day for outdoor activities, so it turned out to be a fine example of the the community pulling together.

The Duke of Wellington pub made its banqueting hall available for the street party, and Holy Cross Church cleared space for the craft fair, and the day was saved!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Steve Bell from Kookies Kitchen.

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COWBRIDGE
Meet the people...
SUMMER Seasonal update

Ian and Sarah John of OBI Camping.

Nia James Jones and Sam Evans, your local FUW insurance brokers.

Hwyel and Paula Jones with some of the PH71 Haircrew team.

Cowbridge 'different from so many others'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Natalie Isaac is a prominent member of the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, and also runs the Quarter Penny Cafe.

She believes the importance of looking after visitors to the town cannot be overstated.

She told The GEM: "With the Eisteddfod in mind, the chamber of trade has made plans to help visitors see the best of Cowbridge.

"There will be a shuttle bus between the town and the maes in Llandow, and we have also arranged with Cowbridge Comprehensive School for their students to get involved.

"A number of them will be based in the town centre as 'meeters and greeters' and they will make sure that visitors are aware of the town's most interesting features.

"It is beneficial for the students too, as the work will go towards an element of their Welsh Baccalaureate."

Another example of the town's community spirit was the successful Cowbridge Book Festival, again run by volunteers, and an event which has just announced that it raised £12,500 for children's charities.

Yet another event, now firmly established on the national calendar and again run almost entirely by volunteers, is the Cowbridge Festival of Food and Drink, which has proved to be a great success.

One obvious sign that the town can attract shoppers, visitors and new businesses is, of course, the arrival, scheduled for October, of Waitrose, who will be opening a food store in the centre of the town.

At a time when other supermarket chains are cutting back on openings – Tesco for instance – it shows just how in demand Cowbridge is.

It all comes back to the way that the town has managed to make sure that visitors have an interesting day, whatever their requirements.

Recently, this reporter was introduced to a group of holidaymakers from the Midlands, staying in Porthcawl on a five-day break.

Wanting a change of scenery after a few days, they asked a local who advised them to hop on the X2 bus, saying that in 45 minutes they would be somewhere very different, with a totally different character.

Needless to say, they came back singing the praises of Cowbridge!

Natalie Isaac was not surprised at their reaction.

She said: "There is so much that is of interest, from the main street to all the 'nooks and crannies'.

"I would really encourage people to support our independent traders.

"They make the town different from so many others."

Paul Jarvis of Chipsaway.

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COWBRIDGE
Meet the people...
SUMMER Seasonal update

Richard Belby, Huw Oakley and Nathan Tucker - Forest Products.

The friendly team at Vale 4x4 are situated in North Road.

Performing arts school celebrates awards success

ABOVE: Stagecoach students celebrate their awards success.

STAGECOACH Theatre Arts School is celebrating after introducing new Performance Arts awards.

Every child passed with outstanding results all round, and each was presented with a certificate and written report.

Stagecoach principal Helene Reynolds commented: "It's wonderful that they can add this to their record of achievement. Our weekly drama, dance and singing sessions teach performance skills and 'skills for life'.

"It is very satisfying to see how these skills impact positively on all aspects of their life, and will stand them in good stead, whatever career path they choose to take in the future."

Stagecoach are enrolling now for summer workshops and autumn term classes.

For more information, visit: www.stagecoach.co.uk/bridgend, or contact Helene on 01446 781454.

Question: *Who could this biker (above) be?...The answer is local artist Sue McDonagh (right)*

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COWBRIDGE
Meet the people...
SUMMER Seasonal update

LOCAL HAIR SALON STAFF SHOW OFF THEIR CREATIVE ARTWORK

Rachel Best and Amy Theophilus from Fun Foundations Nursery.

Anthony Taylor of Gaskell and Walker solicitors.

Craig Lamont, manager of Shoecare.

ONE Cowbridge hair salon recently celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by getting creative and raising cash for charity!

Staff at The Hair Business put their hair products aside and took up their paint brushes to create a series of 'artworks'.

These were put on display around the salon and offered to customers (with a reserve price of £3).

The staff's creativity was rewarded, and keen bidding for some of the items pushed the total amount raised to more than £100.

A company spokeswoman said that the money would be donated to the chidren's charity, Plan International.

ABOVE: Staff at The Hair Business with their Jubilee works of art.

Home comforts

ABOVE: Nicola Punter and Richard Lang of Home Comforts

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Image shows typical Taylor Wimpey homes.

The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan

Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Excitement as choir prepares to headline Eisteddfod

FRESH from their recent success with Only Boys Aloud on *Britain's Got Talent*, the members of Only Men Aloud are back at work mentoring and inspiring young children across the Vale, as they prepare for the National Eisteddfod.

'Only Vale Kids Aloud', the latest in the family of choirs, will perform for the first time at the opening concert.

Three members of the mentoring team talked about how the preparations are going. "We're really looking forward to this year's Eisteddfod," says Craig Yates. "I think when everyone's singing together, it'll be something the Eisteddfod has never seen before – if we can fit everyone onto the stage!"

"Things are going well," adds Dan Phillips. "The rehearsals were positive and the kids have all started well."

So it bodes well for Only Vale Kids Aloud.With the support and encouragement of Only Men Aloud members, it's obvious that the children are involved in a project which will inspire and stay with them for years to come, just as the preparations for the opening concert at the Blaenau Gwent and Heads of the Valleys Eisteddfod inspired another group of youngsters. Only Boys Aloud.

Craig has special memories from that opening concert: "The reaction they had that night will live with me forever."

"Definitely," agrees David Mahoney. "It was an amazing reaction from the crowd, and from the teenage boys. We were all very proud of them."

And although Only Boys Aloud soon became household names across Wales, with a TV series following their progress, it took a certain ITV 1 series to bring them to the attention of the whole of the UK and beyond!

"I was able to be in *Britain's Got Talent* for each round and the boys were amazing," says Dan.

"It was great to be part of it with them and see how they grew throughout the competition,."

"It was hard work," admits Craig. "But what the boys achieved was something very special indeed. And by sticking to their Welsh roots, they touched so many people around the world through what they did. Amazing."

The Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod will be the third time Only Men Aloud have headlined at the National Eisteddfod, but does any one performance or concert stand out? All three answer almost simultaneously.

"The opening concert at Ebbw Vale. It was a magical moment when Only Boys Aloud joined us on stage," says David.

Craig says: "It's got to be the concert in Ebbw Vale, where Only Boys Aloud performed for the first time. I'll never forget it.

So with less than two months to go, what can the boys tell us about their performance on the night – what can we expect at this year's opening concert?

"It'll be a night to celebrate Wales' reputation and heritage as the land of song with a rich array and variety of choral singing," says David.

"And it'll be a packed stage," adds Craig. "We'll have only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud, the Principality Only Boys Aloud Academi and Only Vale Kids Aloud joining us on stage. It'll be quite a squeeze towards the end!"

Craig thinks the young members will benefit from their experiences, and they'll make some great friendships along the way.

"It'll broaden their horizons and help them to grow in ability and self-confidence," and with that, Craig and the others rejoin the schoolchildren busily preparing for the opening concert on the Pavilion stage at the old airfield in Llandow on Friday, August 3 at 8pm.

Some tickets are still available for the evening. Go online to or ring the ticketline on 0845 4090 800. The Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod is held from 4-11 August. For more information go online.

Welsh phrase of the week / Ymadrodd yr wythnos: *Dwi'n hoffi gwylio tenis* (Dween hophee goo-il-yeo teniss) which means *'I like watching tennis'.*

Paratoadau ar gyfer Cyngerdd agoriadol yr Eisteddfod yn Codi Stêm.

MAE aelodau Only Men Aloud yn ôl wrth eu gwaith yn mentora ac ysbrydoli plant ardal Bro Morgannwg wrth iddyn nhw baratoi ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, yn dilyn eu llwyddiant diweddar gydag Only Boys Aloud ar raglen adloniant Britain's Got Talent.

Bydd Only Vale Kids Aloud, y diweddaraf yn y teulu o gorau, yn perfformio am y tro cyntaf yng nghyngerdd agoriadol yr Eisteddfod eleni. Noddir y cyngerdd gan Principality. Cymerodd dri aelod seibiant o'r gwaith hyfforddi i sôn am sut mae'r paratoadau'n dod yn eu blaenau ac i hel atgofion am eu profiadau Eisteddfodol dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

"Rydan ni'n edrych ymlaen," meddai Craig Yates. "Rwy'n meddwl y bydd o'n brofiad gwych gweld pawb yn canu gyda'i gilydd – os y gallwn ni ffitio pawb ar y llwyfan!

"Mae'r plant yn edrych ymlaen yn eiddgar yn barod, ac yn awyddus iawn i rannu llwyfan gydag Only Men Aloud. Er rwy'n siwr mai edrych ymlaen i weld Only Boys Aloud mae llawer iawn ohonyn nhw, go iawn!"

Felly mae'n argoeli'n dda ar gyfer Only Vale Kids Aloud, a chyda chefnogaeth a chymorth aelodau Only Men Aloud, mae'n amlwg bod y plant yn rhan o brosiect a fydd yn eu hysbrydoli ac aros gyda hwy am flynyddoedd, yn union fel yr ysbrydolwyd grwp arall o fechgyn ifanc gan y profiad o baratoi ar gyfer cyngerdd agoriadol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Blaenau Gwent a Blaenau'r Cymoedd ddwy flynedd yn ôl.

Cafodd côr Only Boys Aloud eu creu ar gyfer cyngerdd agoriadol yr Eisteddfod y flwyddyn honno, a thros y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf mae'r côr o 160 o fechgyn o bob cwr o gymoedd y de wedi mynd o nerth i nerth.

Mae gan Craig atgofion melys iawn o'r perfformiad cyntaf, "Roedd y cyngerdd yna'n wych. Noson arbennig iawn. Bydd yr ymateb a gafodd y bechgyn yn aros yn y cof am byth.

Dim ond tri mis ynghynt y crëwyd y côr bechgyn, ac roedd bod ar y llwyfan gyda nhw, gweld mwynhad y gynulleidfa a'r hunanhyder a ddaeth yn sgil hynny'n rywbeth bythgofiadwy."

"Yn bendant," meddai David Mahoney. Ymateb gwefreiddiol gan y gynulleidfa, a 160 o fechgyn wedi cyffroi'n llwyr. Roeddem ni i gyd mor falch ohonyn nhw. Roedd yn hudol – pinacl ein profiad Eisteddfodol ni. Noson i'w chofio a'i thrysori am byth."

Ac er bod Only Boys Aloud wedi dod yn enwau cyfarwydd iawn i ni yma yng Nghymru gyda chyfres deledu arbennig yn dilyn eu llwyddiant a chyfleoedd i gefnogi Only Men Aloud mewn cyngherddau, bu ymddangosiad ar raglen adloniant ar ITV 1 ar draws Prydain yn ddigon i sicrhau bod y bechgyn yn denu sylw ym mhob cwr o'r DU a thu hwnt!

"Ro'n i ym mhob rownd o raglen Britain's Got Talent, a roedd y bechgyn yn wych," meddai Dan. "Roedd yn brofiad gwych cael bod gyda nhw a'u gweld yn datblygu fel grwp yn ystod y gystadleuaeth – ac yn ymddwyn mor aeddfed."

"Roedd yn bleser pur," ychwanegodd David. "Tipyn o daith i'r bechgyn – ond fe lwyddon nhw i apelio at y beirniaid – ac rwy'n siwr mai Only Boys Aloud yw 'boyband' blaenaf Prydain erbyn hyn – neu'r un mwyaf o leiaf!"

"Roedd yn waith caled," meddai Craig. "Ond roedd yr hyn a gyflawnodd y bechgyn yn arbennig iawn iawn. A thrwy gadw i'w gwreiddiau fe gyffyrddon nhw â chymaint o bobl ym mhob cwr o'r byd. – profiad eithriadol."

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg fydd y trydydd tro i Only Men Aloud serennu ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn, ond a oes unrhyw berfformiad yn sefyll allan? Mae'r tri yn ateb bron ar unwaith.

"Cyngerdd agoriadol Glyn Ebwy. Mi oedd o'n hudolus pan ymunodd Only Boys Aloud â ni ar y llwyfan," meddai David. "Digwyddiad ffantastic," ychwanega Dan. "Cyngerdd cyhoeddus cyntaf Only Boys Aloud. Arbennig iawn."

Dywed Craig, "Mae'n rhaid i mi ddweud y cyngerdd yng Nglyn Ebwy pan berfformiodd Only Boys Aloud am y tro cyntaf. Anghofia i mo'r cyngerdd yna byth. Er, mae 'na stori ddoniol am ein cyngerdd yn Y Bala yn 2009.

Roeddan ni am berfformio 'Gwyr Harlech' am y tro cyntaf, ac roedd Tim yn awyddus i ni gael biniau a ffyn, a'n bod ninnau'n stampio ein traed a defnyddio ffyn.

"Roeddan ni'n ymarfer am yn tro cyntaf a heb weithio popeth allan yn iawn, felly roedd clwstwr o finiau a ffyn ar y llwyfan a ninnau'n canu wrth eu hymyl. Roedd popeth yn iawn tan ei fod yn amser mynd ar y bws.

"Doeddem ni methu â chael hyd i'r biniau yn unman. Ar ôl chwilio o amgylch y lle, fe gawson ni hyd iddyn nhw, wedi'u lleoli o amgylch y Pafiliwn – a'r rhan fwyaf ohonyn nhw'n llawn papurau a phethau felly!"

Felly gyda llai na deufis i fynd cyn yr Eisteddfod eleni, beth y gallwn ei ddisgwyl yn y cyngerdd agoriadol? Dyw'r mentoriaid ddim yn awyddus i ddweud gormod ar hyn o bryd.

"Noson i ddathlu treftadaeth a phwysigrwydd Cymru fel gwlad y gân fydd nos Wener agoriadol yr Eisteddfod eleni," meddai David.

Mae Dan yn cytuno, gan ddweud, "Bydd rhywbeth ar gyfer pawb yn y cyngerdd eleni – caneuon newydd a hen ffefrynnau, felly gobeithio y bydd pawb yn mwynhau'u hunain."

"Ac fe fydd y llwyfan dan ei sang," ychwanegodd Craig. "Bydd Only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud, Academi Only Boys Aloud y Principality ac Only Vale Kids Aloud ar y llwyfan. Dipyn o noson, a gobeithio y bydd pawb yn cael modd i fyw. Welwn ni chi yno!"

Mae taith haf eisoes wedi'i threfnu ar ôl yr Eisteddfod a chyngherddau Nadolig yn y dyddiadur yn barod, a does dim arwydd bod bywyd yn mynd i arafu ar gyfer y mentoriaid o Only Men Aloud wrth iddyn nhw ddychwelyd at eu grwpiau i baratoi 300 o blant cynradd ar gyfer y cyngerdd.

Mae Craig yn sôn am y budd y caiff y bobl ifanc o'r profiad hwn ar lwyfan y Brifwyl eleni. "Fe fydd yn sicr o ehangu'u gorwelion nhw, ac yn eu helpu i ddatblygu'u doniau a'u hunan-hyder."

A chyda hyn, mae Craig, Dan a David yn ail-ymuno gyda'r plant ysgol i ail-afael yn yr ymarfer i sicrhau bod y perfformiad ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn yn hen faes awyr Llandw, nos Wener 3 Awst am 8pm, yn berffaith.

Mae rhai tocynnau ar ôl ar gyfer y cyngerdd. Ewch i www.eisteddfod.org.uk neu ffoniwch 0845 4090 800 i'w prynu.

Cynhelir Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg o 4-11 Awst. Am ragor o wybodaeth ewch arlein.

SIONED EDWARDS

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(A4231 BARRY DOCK LINK ROAD, BARRY)
(30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2012

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location The area of the A4231 Barry Dock Link Road to be affected is between the roundabout with the A4055 Cardiff Road and the roundabout with Gilbert Lane (Supermarket)

In addition, the Order known as The Vale of Glamorgan Council **(A4231 Docks Link Road, Barry) (50mph Speed Restriction) Order 2005** will be suspended whilst the 30mph signs are in place.

Reason To allow essential road safety improvements to be undertaken, together with associated works.

Duration From 06:00Hrs on 15th July 2012, for a maximum period of 18 months, or until such time as the 30mph Traffic Signs are removed, whichever is the sooner.

SCHEDULE 3

2. No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to turn right at the locations specified in Schedule 4.

SCHEDULE 4

Location The right turn from the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road into Coldbrook Road, Barry.

Alternative Route In a southeasterly direction to the roundabout at the A4055 Cardiff Road, then "U" turning at this roundabout, back along the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road then turning left into Coldbrook Road.

Location The right turn from Argae Lane onto the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road.

Alternative Route In a southeasterly direction to the roundabout at the A4055 Cardiff Road, then "U" turning at this roundabout, back along the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road.

Location The right turn from A4231 Barry Docks Link Road into Argae Lane

Alternative Route In a northwesterly direction to the roundabout at Gilbert Lane (Supermarket) then "U" turning at this roundabout and travelling back along the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road and turning left into Argae Lane.

Location No Right Turn from Coldbrook Road onto the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road

Alternative Route In a northwesterly direction to the roundabout at Gilbert Lane (Supermarket) then "U" turning at this junction and travelling back along the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road.

Reason To allow essential road safety improvements to be undertaken, together with associated works.

Duration From 06:00Hrs on 15th July 2012, for a maximum period of 18 months, or until such time as the No Right Turn Traffic Signs are removed, whichever is the sooner.

Dated this 28th day of June 2012.
Mr. M. Punter
Head of Visible Services,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
GORCHYMYN (DROS DRO)
(CYFYNGU CYFLYMDRA I 30M.Y.A. A GWAHARDD TROI I'R DDE)
(FFORDD GYSWLLT DOCIAU'R BARRI (A4231), Y BARRI)
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012

Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig) a phob pwer galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn ymhen o leiaf saith niwrnod ar ôl dyddiad yr hysbysiad hwn i'r diben cyffredinol a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlenni isod:

ATODLEN 1

Ni fydd neb yn gyrru nac yn achosi nac yn caniatáu i neb arall yrru unrhyw gerbyd yn gyflymach na 30 m.y.a. yn y mannau a bennwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad Y rhan o Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) sydd dan sylw yw'r darn rhwng y gylchfan sy'n cysylltu â Cardiff Road (A4055) a'r gylchfan sy'n cysylltu â Gilbert Lane (Archfarchnad)

Hefyd, bydd y **Gorchymyn a adwaenir fel Gorchymyn (Cyfyngu Cyflymdra i 50m.y.a.) (Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231)) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2005** yn cael ei ohirio nes bod yr arwyddion 30m.y.a. wedi'u gosod.

Rheswm Gwneud gwaith angenrheidiol ar gyfer diogelu'r ffordd ac unrhyw waith arall sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny.

Cyfnod O 06:00 ar 15 Gorffennaf 2012 ymlaen am hyd at 18 mis, neu ar ôl i'r arwyddion traffig 30m.y.a. gael eu symud, pa un bynnag a fo'r dyddiad diweddaraf.

ATODLEN 3

2. Ni fydd neb yn troi i'r dde yn y mannau a bennwyd yn Atodiad 4 nac yn achosi nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall wneud hynny.

ATODLEN 4

Lleoliad Y troad i'r dde sy'n arwain o Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) i Coldbrook Road, Y Barri.

Llwybr arall Mynd i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain nes cyrraedd y gylchfan sy'n cysylltu â Cardiff Road (A4055), gwneud 'tro pedol' o gwmpas y gylchfan honno, mynd yn ôl ar hyd Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri, a throi i'r chwith i Coldbrook Road.

Lleoliad Y troad i'r dde sy'n arwain o Argae Lane i Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231).

Llwybr arall Mynd i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain nes cyrraedd y gylchfan sy'n cysylltu â Cardiff Road (A4055), gwneud 'tro pedol' o gwmpas y gylchfan honno a mynd yn ôl ar hyd Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231).

Lleoliad Y troad i'r dde sy'n arwain o Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) i Argae Lane.

Llwybr arall Mynd i gyfeiriad y gogledd-orllewin nes cyrraedd y gylchfan sy'n cysylltu â Gilbert Lane (Archfarchnad), gwneud 'tro pedol' o gwmpas y gylchfan honno, mynd yn ôl ar hyd Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) a throi i'r chwith i Argae Lane.

Lleoliad Y troad i'r dde sy'n arwain o Coldbrook Road i Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri (A4231).

Llwybr arall Mynd i gyfeiriad y gogledd-orllewin nes cyrraedd y gylchfan sy'n cysylltu â Gilbert Lane (Archfarchnad), gwneud 'tro pedol' wrth y gyffordd honno a mynd yn ôl ar hyd Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri.

Rheswm Gwneud gwaith angenrheidiol ar gyfer diogelu'r ffordd ac unrhyw waith arall sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny.

Cyfnod O 06:00 ar 15 Gorffennaf 2012 ymlaen am hyd at 18 mis, neu ar ôl i'r arwyddion traffig 30m.y.a. gael eu symud, pa un bynnag a fo'r dyddiad diweddaraf.

Dyddiedig 28 Mehefin 2012.

M. Punter,
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

Cadoxton bowlers blow victory on the last five ends

A disastrous last five ends saw Cadoxton lose this home game against Murch from a healthy position, of 12 shots advantage.

Three of the four rinks were leading and the other was seven shots down. At the end of the game there was just one winning rink, skipped by Graham Brown, and an overall deficit of 17 shots. All four rinks lost shots during this period.

The change coincided with a downpour of rain, which the opposition adapted to much better, than the home side.

Scores: P Ellis, M Curtis, W Vaughan, H Craven 12–25; I Robertson, D Evans, W Eadie, G Brown 26–20; S Clarke, L Cundliffe, D Brook, D Kuhnell 17–24; D Tuck, M Mathews, J Davies, K Chedgzoy 18–21. Final score: 73–90.

Cadoxton 'A' v Murch 'A' – (ML6)

The 'A' side travelled with a depleted side to meet Murch 'A', who were also struggling to make a team.

Both sides played short and the outcome was three losing rinks for the visitors, but a good win from the other rink, which allowed them to take the aggregate by one shot.

Scores: E & I Heppenstall, J Stewart, G Davies 14–15; S Clements, R Knight, R Harding 25–12; D Collard, K Tanner, I Dunbar 14–22; L Tanner, D Fanning, G Garland 15–18. Final score: 68–67.

Cadoxton v Romilly – Munro Cup

This Munro Cup game commenced at Cadoxton, and at the same time the rain started and continued steadily throughout.

The result was a narrow three-shot win for Romilly, after Cadoxton conceded seven shots on the last end with all rinks failing.

Kelvin Chedgzoy and Don Kuhnell skipped their rinks to wins over Bryn Gough and Bob Wyatt. Kelvin's rink recovered from a slow start to draw level at 7–7, before a five took them in front. This was followed shortly by two threes, which gave them an unassailable lead.

Don's rink took control of their match, with some excellent bowling from the beginning, and moved into a 10–4 lead.

The visitors made better progress when full length jacks were instigated, with the home front players finding difficulty in the wet conditions. However, some good turn over shots stopped a complete comeback.

Graham Brown came up against Alan Bryan and the visiting rink took a big lead with high scoring ends, to reach 19–3 at half way. An improvement brought the score to 13–21, but the final two ends were lost.

Howard Craven had Mel Newman as his opposition. The success in the early stages was shared until the score was tied 9–9 at the half way stage.

The visitors won the next three ends but the scores were levelled again on 14–14. Three further successes in the last four ends gave Romilly the win.

Scores: S Clarke, M Mathews, G Davies, H Craven 15–19

L Jones, D Cameron, A Woolcock, M Newman; S Clements, R Cole, D Evans, D Kuhnell 15–11

M Gershenson, G Whittaker, J Jones, B Wyatt; G Solomon, L Adams, W Vaughan, G Brown 13–25

P Gershenson, T Bloomfield, M Doyle, B Gough; D Fanning, H Hellyar, J Stewart, K Chedgzoy 20–11 C Rees, P Hoad, G Trepleton, A Bryan. Final score: 63–66.

DK

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale, June 19:

1st Mike Best and Mike Close 60.2 per cent; 2nd Bryn Gough and Dave Reed 59.17; 3rd Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews 58.75.

Bryn & Dave won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; if you would like to join telephone 01446 733425 or 01446 418380 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

BOWLERS GAIN REVENGE WITH DESERVED VICTORY

LLANTWIT bowlers travelled to Windsor (Penarth) for their Munro cup game on Wednesday, taking revenge for their defeat by them in the Carruthers Cup with a three rink, 66-58 shot win.

Graham Jones' rink were behind until the eighth end, then took control with Graham having an excellent match.

On one end, Llantwit were seven shots down when their skip produced a superb bowl to take the shot. Windsor only scored one shot on the last six ends to lose by three shots.

Danny Ahearn's rink top scored with the Llantwit skip enjoying beating his old club.

Derek Lancaster, on this rink, had a good game; after being down by six shots after five ends, Llantwit prevented Windsor scoring for eight ends while taking an eight-shot lead, finally winning by 11 shots.

Neville Young's rink faced a formidable foe in Windsor skip Ken McLeod but this failed to daunt Llantwit, with Derek Mutlow at lead putting in some good bowls to give Llantwit a cracking start of nine shots up after five ends.

With good support from Ambrose Horgan and Mike Williams Llantwit came away with a five-shot win.

Steve Booker's rink started well, holding the lead until the sixth end against Mal Hope's rink, then fell away failing to score on the last six ends.

Rink scores: GJ 16-13, DA 21-10, NY 19-14, SB 10-21.

Llantwit played their second league match of the season when they visited St Josephs (Cardiff) on Saturday.

Despite winning on two rinks and only losing by one shot on another LLanwit lost 78-57.

Charles Hiscock's rink stormed into a seven-shot lead after only six ends.

St Josephs came back in the later stages, but Llantwit never lost their lead to win by four shots.

Neville Young's rink had a tight tussle with their opponentsand on the 13th end Llantwit were down six shots, with some consistently good bowling from Derek Mutlow and some good conversion shots from Mike Adams.

Llantwit turned the game around taking the next eight ends to win by two shots.

Graham Jones' rink, while not at their best, but put up a good fight. Down on the eighth end, they held on to take the lead on the 13th end only to stagnate for five ends to lose by one shot.

Steve Booker's rink could not get going against a very strong rink. Fifteen shots down after seven ends, Llantwit had a mini revival when they went on short jacks;but they could not maintain this, failing to score on the last seven ends.

Rink scores: CH 16-12, NY 21-19, GJ 14-15, SB 6-32.

JY

Three out of three for Dinas

DINAS Powys second team made it three wins out of three for June with victory over Rhiwbina last Saturday.

Following victories over Barry Athletic by 12 points to 2, and over a very strong Penylan side by the same margin, Dinas were at home to Rhiwbina last Saturday and secured a 14 point to 0 victory.

Two rinks up and two down on five ends gave them a narrow three shot lead overall

By the 10th end, Dinas had stamped their authority on the game increasing their lead to 13 shots.

By the 15th end they were 20 shots in front Three rinks were up on the 18th end and with a 24-shot lead the game was just about secure.

A strong last two ends, scoring five shots, by the Neil Giles rink gave them a one-shot victory, securing the final two points to give the team all 14, and a 23-shot victory, 86–65.

Despite a strong finish, Dinas 1st Team suffered a disappointingly narrow defeat at Gilfach Bargoed, by three shots, ending their Carruthers Shield ambitions for this season.

AD

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TENNYSON ROAD, BARRY
Three bedroomed, mid linked traditional. Well presented. Enclosed rear garden. Easy access to link road.
£102,500

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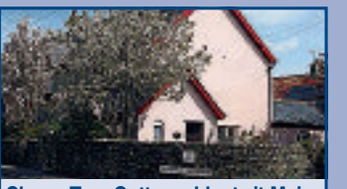

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Birthdays

Llantwit Major's very own 'Ma Baker'...

SUE BAKER

Hope you have a lovely birthday on June 28th

Love from all your friends at the Glamorgan GEM

x x x

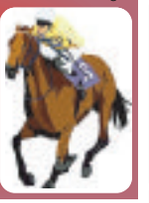
Happy 30th Birthday

Helen Leanne ROWE

2nd July 2012

Lots of love, Mum & Dad, Hubby Steve, Lee and Leeann and Danielle, Dean and Lily.

"Enjoy the Races"



Happy Birthday

Sue Baker

Love you lots

Joe, Abi & hubby Darren

xxx

Family Notices

SWIFT

Samuel

Peacefully, on Saturday June 23, at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a long illness; Sam, of High Meadow, Llantwit Major, beloved husband of Jean, father of Mandy, loving step-dad of Allan, beloved Daddy of Sharon, a much loved Bampa of Kyle and a respected father-in-law of Deg and Barbara.

Funeral Monday July 2. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm where friends please meet. Family flowers only, by request, donations in lieu, if desired to Parkinson's UK c/o Penybont Funeral Services, Meadow Street, Bridgend, CF31 1HE, telephone 01656 650831.

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- Trade
- Property
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Public Notice

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00585/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of detached dwelling, amendments to approved application 2010/00128/FUL
Location:/Lleoliad: Ty Maen Farm, Colwinston
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth Colwinston

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00599/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a detached dwelling and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: 12, Park Road (proposed 12B), Penarth
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the Penarth Conservation Area

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00600/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a detached dwelling and associated works.
Location:/Lleoliad: 12, Park Road (proposed 12A), Penarth
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the Penarth Conservation Area

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00572/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings
Location:/Lleoliad: 12, Park Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00568/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Two storey extension to rear to provide sitting room/study at ground floor level and bedroom and shower room to first floor
Location:/Lleoliad: Ty Fry Lodge, Pendoylan
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00589/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposal is to install an external radio antenna on the clock tower of Hen Goleg to provide IT network connectivity.
Location:/Lleoliad: Hen Goleg, College Fields Close, Barry
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00583/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: New composting concrete pad
Location:/Lleoliad: Llwynhelig Farm, Cowbridge

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00595/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replacement of dairy unit buildings
Location:/Lleoliad: Goldsland Farm, Wenvoe

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00625/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Retrospective change of use of existing scrap metal salvage storage yard to a scrap metal salvage storage, sorting and light processing yard.
Location:/Lleoliad: Island Garage, Rear of 16, Redbrink Crescent, Barry Island

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Dated / Dyddiedig: 28th June, 2012

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Business as usual at Llandow Kart Club

AFTER the high profile Welsh Championships, it was back to business as normal for Llandow Kart Club as round five of its summer championships arrived in June – complete with a return to unsettled weather.

Despite the conditions, the entry was boosted by the addition of drivers from the RAF Premier class and both the Kartmania TKM 4-Stroke and Honda Challenge series, taking the total number of drivers to 107 for the weekend.

Five drivers got things underway in the Bambino class, all now accomplished pilots with several meetings under their belts. It showed, as Brooklyn Thomas, Shayne Clarke, Jakob Chamberlain, Oliver Thomas, and Jack Broughton all got below the weekend's target time to earn themselves the gold certificate and medallion.

No fewer than 27 karts were on track for the Cadet class, with both Honda and Comer running together as a result of the congested programme.

Tom Rawlings and Kieran Clarke appeared to be the ones to beat in the smaller Comer contingent, despite both picking up penalties in the heats. When the silverware was on the line, it was Rawlings who came out on top, but with Lewis Griffiths following him home to claim second, Clarke came a little adrift in third.

Cadet Honda was fought out between Hugo Holmes and Ross Thomas, who each tasted victory in the heats before proving hard to split in the final. Holmes eventually got the verdict by a scant half-second, with Jenson Butterfield rounding out the podium, ahead of Ross Deal and Stuart Ferguson.

Honda Junior welcomed another brace of newcomers in Christiano Nardone and Patrick Hill, boosting numbers to seven, but there was no denying Ben Stevens, who swept all four races, including the final, to increase his championship advantage.

Once again, Thomas Croydon and Tom Ford provided Stevens' main opposition, and duly completed the podium.

The combined Junior Rotax and Minimax grid also boasted seven drivers and, without the interlopers who stole the glory and C plates in May, Rob Ellis and Ben Davies were able to battle over Junior class honours.

Davies held the advantage after winning two of the day's three heats, but it was Ellis who emerged on top when it mattered, with his rival retiring on the penultimate lap.

That allowed two of the category's four novices – Toby Allen and Thomas Stride – to join Ellis on the podium, with Elliot Hagerty only just missing out in his challenge for third.

Rookie Ceran Sokhi claimed Minimax honours ahead of Jodie Handford, despite the latter taking two of the three heats.

The Junior TKM remained in double figures, with ten karts taking to the circuit, but reigning champion Ross Chell was in no mood to be beaten, claiming victory in all four races. Ryan Edwards and Yousuf Ashraf led the chase throughout the heats and it was fitting that the pair shared the podium with Chell, with Ashraf coming out on top by a matter of tenths as the flag fell.

Having added another Welsh title to his collection, Simon Evans rightly started the weekend as favourite for the Senior Honda class, and delivered another consummate performance by sweeping all four outings, including an eight-second victory in the final.

Miles Murphy (kart 7) came out on top of the Kartmania Senior TKM 4-Stroke battle in round three at Llandow. Photos courtesy of: HARDY RODDE.

The Lewis name proved to a constant in the fruitless pursuit of the champion, although former club and Welsh title holder Gareth had to give best to namesake Alex in one of the heats. Ferdinand Ball and Danny Griffiths both took top three finishes in the qualifying races, before Ball rounded out the podium in the final.

Senior Rotax numbers were a little down on their peak, with just 11 karts turning out for the weekend, but that did not deter Matthew Dowers from stamping his mark on proceedings. Two heat wins – the other went to David Entwistle – were the precursor to another in the final, where he led home Entwistle and Ashley Lewis, with Sebastian Hutchinson taking fourth spot.

Simon Wheeler claimed Max 177 honours from Wayne Stone and rookie Nicky Coombs.

The guest championships also provided a little glory for the Llandow club, as Entwistle swept the board in the RAF Premier rounds, dominating at every turn to claim the final by a sizeable 16 seconds. Kevin Meynell, Paul Heyhoe and David Dean took it in turns to give chase, with Dean heading Meynell on the final podium.

The Kartmania series both staged double-headers in south Wales, with Thomas McMurray and Miles Murphy taking the two Senior TKM 4-Stroke finals, and Steve Welsh twice coming out on top in an 18-strong Senior Honda field.

RESULTS:

BAMBINO – Gold Award
Jack Broughton (Birel)
Jakob Chamberlain (Birel)
Shayne Clarke (Topkart)
Brooklyn Thomas (Birel)
Olly Thomas (Birel)

CADET COMER
1. Tom Rawlings (Zip)
2. Lewis Griffiths (Zip)
3. Kieran Clarke (Zip)

CADET HONDA
1. Hugo Holmes (Zip)
2. Ross Thomas (Wright)
3. Jenson Butterfield (BRK)

JUNIOR HONDA
1. Ben Stevens (7Kart)
2. Thomas Croydon (Jade)
3. Tom Ford (Biz)

JUNIOR TKM
1. Ross Chell (Jade)
2. Yousuf Ashraf (Jade)
3. Ryan Edwards

MINI MAX
1. Ceran Sokhi (Kosmic)
2. Jodie Handford

JUNIOR ROTAX
1. Rob Ellis (Tonykart)
2. Toby Allen (CRG)
3. Thomas Stride (CRG)

SENIOR HONDA
1. Simon Evans (7Kart)
2. Gareth Lewis (7Kart)
3. Ferdinand Ball (MS)

SENIOR ROTAX
1. Matthew Dowers (Kosmic)
2. David Entwistle (Kosmic)
3. Ashley Lewis (CRG)

ROTAX 177
1. Simon Wheeler (CRG)
2. Wayne Stone (Tonykart)
3. Nicky Coombs (Tonykart)

RAF PREMIER
1. David Entwistle (Kosmic)
2. David Dean (Solo)
3. Wayne Ditcham (Gillard)

KARTMANIA TKM 4-STROKE
Rd.3
1. Thomas McMurray (TalKo)
2. Liam Jones (Jade)
3. Joel Saunders (Arrow)
Rd.4
1. Miles Murphy (TalKo)
2. Joel Saunders (Arrow)
3. Zach Jones (Jade)

KARTMANIA HONDA CHALLENGE
Rd.3
1. Steve Welsh (MS)
2. Nathan Read (7Kart)
3. Charlie Bingham (BRM)
Rd.4
1. Steve Welsh (MS)
2. Nathan Read (7Kart)
3. Charlie Bingham (BRM)

Best Novice: *Ceran Sokhi (Minimax)*
Driver of the Day: *Patrick Hill (Junior Honda)*

CRAIG LLEWELLYN

St Bride's Major triumph in schools' football event

Cowbridge Rotary Club's Ian Pearson, with the winning team from St Bride's Major.

COWBRIDGE Rotary Club recently brought local primary schools together to compete in a seven-a-side junior football tournament.

St Bride's Major were the winning team in what is now an annual event.

The teams were from: St Brides; St David's, Colwinston; Y Bont Faen, Llansannor, Pendoylan and Llangan, and a Rotary spokesman said it was a close fought and entertaining competition.

It was held at Colwinston and Leah Croke, the tournament organiser and a teacher at the school, was relieved that the weather was fine, avoiding the need to reschedule the event, as had happened in previous years!

Rotarian Ian Pearson awarded medals and certificates to the runners-up and winners, praising the high quality of football played by all the teams.

Adventurer Maria wins 'Oscar' award

A BONVILSTON woman, Maria Leijerstam, won a prestigious award at the 'Oscars of Adventure' night in London, hosted by Extreme World Races.

She won the Oscar of Adventure for completing the world's first Siberian Black Ice race, becoming the first woman in history to cycle the length of the frozen Lake Baikal on the central Siberian Plateau.

It was presented on Friday, in front of 500 people from the adventure community who have been to the North Pole, South Pole or to Lake Baikal in Siberia.

In her speech, she commented that the event was more of a "survival exercise than a race", due to the extreme conditions.

Out of 30 starters, only eight people got to the north of the Lake, with many succumbing to frostbite, fatigue, and even falling through the ice.

Since returning home in April, she has already run a double marathon race as well as placed second in a surf-ski kayak race in south Wales.

Maria Leijerstam of Bonvilston

She's planning to tackle the Devises to Westminster Canoe race early next year, which involves kayaking 110 miles non-stop along the River Thames in 24 hours.

"I'm already planning expeditions for 2013 and 2014, and I've got some very exciting adventures coming up," Maria said.

Bowlers battle!

Llantwit A were at home to Rumney for the 6th Division match on Saturday, June 23 and it was a difficult one.

About half way through the game it started to rain and came on heavy for the rest of the day. Richard George's rink stuck at it and were worthywinners with only a one shot lead.

Young Danny A'Hearne stuck at it and is improving with every game while Nick Parry's rink of P.Brown, A.Gibbard and K.Williams were 5-3 up but Rumney ran away with it, winning by 11 shots.

Mike Williams' rink of J.Nixon, P.Aston and Mick Mason went down by 10 shots, but Richard Gray's rink of I.Williamson, R. Williams and M.Jones were the heroes of the hour, only allowing the visitors to score on 5 ends.

Rumney had no answer to the devastating display of bowling of the home team and it would be impossible to single out any player as they were all on top form.

Rink scores: R.George 23-22; N.Parry 19-30; M.Williams 15-25; R.Gray 26-14. Final score: 83-91. **WE**

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LOCAL PRIMARY PUPILS COMPETE IN SCHOOLS GYMNASTICS 'OLYMPICS'

Llantwit Major students were involved in organising the event.

All the young gymnasts who took part.

Pupils were able to get close to an Olympic torch.

LLANTWIT Major Comprehensive school held an Olympics themed inter-school competition recently for pupils in local primary schools in years 5 and 6.

There were 45 young gymnasts and pupils from the comprehensive school helped to organise and judge the competition. All the gymnasts performed two floor routines and two vaults (one voluntary and one set).

The standard was extremely high. The winning boys' team was St Illtyd's, with a score of 147.8, with Rhoose coming in a close second.

In the girls' competition, the results were reversed, with Rhoose coming first with 147 and St Illtyd's second.

In the mixed section, St Athan were crowned winners. The overall winning team was Rhoose, with St Illtyd's second, followed by Eagleswell and finally St Athan.

All performances were of a very high standard; the individuals who achieved the highest score overall were, Kyle Cates and Evelyn Heis, both from Rhoose Primary School.

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EMILY IS STILL RIDING WINNERS

EMILY Jones, who rode her first winner at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Come On Sonny back in 1989, is still catching the judge's eye.

A pundit for the racing channel At The Races, Emily recently won the 20,000 Euro HH Sheika Fatima Bint Mubarak World Ladies Championship in Germany and has qualified for the final to be held in Abu Dhabi in November.

Emily has ridden winners on the flat, over hurdles,over jumps and also made a name for herself in the world of Arabian horse racing.

BRIAN LEE

Gym coach shows off her Olympic torch!

PUPILS SHARE IN THE EXCITEMENT

VALE Gymnastics pupils had a special surprise when one of their coaches, Lorelei Westcott, brought her Olympic torch to the gym.

Lorelei completed her section of the Olympic torchrRelay in Barry on May 26, with many of the pupils turning up to support her.

All the children (and especially the parents) were clearly excited about having their turn to hold her Olympic torch and be photographed with it!

Cavaliers under-9s win tournament

ABOVE: The under-9s celebrate.

Llantwit Major Cavaliers under-9s have won the Sunday cricket tournament at Barry Athletic, after going through undefeated.

In beating Cardiff, Barry and Penarth in two consecutive weeks, all players played particularly well and to pick out names would not do justice to a brilliant team performance.

The Cardiff and Vale youth league normally plays under-11 games on a Monday evening, under-13 on a Tuesday evening, under-15 on a Thursday evening and under-9 tournaments on a number of Sunday mornings.

The club also plays a senior midweek side and a Colts side on a Wednesday night in the Vale of Glamorgan Midweek League with the 1st and 2nd XI's playing in the South Wales Cricket Association on a Saturday and the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire League on a Sunday.

DC

Table tennis

THE table tennis club which operates at the Cwm Talwg Community Hall, Barry, will re-open on Wednesday, July 11 at 6pm, following a summer recess.

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Could the test series whitewash pay dividends in the long-term?

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

ON the eve of the third and final rugby test in Sydney on Saturday, caretaker Welsh coach Robert Howley mused: "*We know what we have to do to beat Australia, but there is a difference between knowing how to win and achieving that aim***."**

Announcing just one change from the second test (on the replacements' bench, where hooker Richard Hibbard, whose penalty giveaway on the stroke of full time was so costly in Melbourne, had made way for Ken Owens) Howley added: "*The players can take some credit for the way they played for the large part of the match; but that will be scant consolation if they don't come home with a win in the series***."**

His wry remarks were given added weight in the wake of yet another frustrating Welsh defeat, this time by a single point, which completed the Wallaby tour whitewash and extended Australia's dominance over the years to 24 wins in 35 matches since the two nations first clashed in 1908.

As the young tourists flew home this week, they had justifiable cause to reflect that it could well have been Wales celebrating, not only their first victory on Australian soil for 43 years, but even an historic test series of their own – such was the narrow margin between victory and defeat in all three see-saw matches – with the result literally in doubt right up to the final blast of the referee's whistle.

First came an eight-point loss in the 27-19 opener at Brisbane, when the Welsh team were "caught by surprise" and ultimately paid the price for a sluggish first quarter.

This was followed by a two-point deficit (25-23) in Melbourne, when Wales naively failed to retain possession, instead kicking for position just before the final whistle.

Finally, came the 20-19 heartbreak finale in Sydney, when they again let victory slide through their fingers, after 80 minutes of all-out endeavour, marred by lack of composure and careless indiscipline, which yielded a stream of penalties from the inconsistent, whistle-happy South African referee, Craig Joubert (more of him later).

The stand-in coach had resisted calls for a change in the Wales starting line-up to inject pace, particularly at half-back – giving a vote of confidence to a battling team that had, nevertheless, twice narrowly failed to prevail against a reshaped Australian side – which had seemed there for the taking at the start of the tour, particularly after its shock defeat to Scotland.

LEFT: The pain of a one-point defeat in Sydney, and the loss of the series, could yet prove a spur to future success against the Tri nations giants.

Leigh Halfpenny: his stature has grown on tour.

What turned into rugby's version of 'place-kick ping-pong', began when Wales were penalised after less than four minutes and that scourge of the previous two tests, outside-half Berrick Barnes, slotted it over.

Wales' own 'Mr Reliable', Leigh Halfpenny, equalised with a penalty of his own, before Barnes landed a second penalty.

Halfpenny promptly retaliated after the collapsing Wallaby scrum was penalised (a pattern that was endlessly repeated, without extreme sanction being applied by a bemused and bemusing Mr Joubert!) as prop Adam Jones & Co turned the screw on the hapless Australian front row.

Unfortunately, lack of precision was again proving the Welsh Achilles heel, with handling errors at the restart and at the lineout creeping in, and the referee's persistent whistle-blowing played an ever more deciding role in the outcome.

The inevitable result? Two more penalties for Barnes and one for Halfpenny to make the halftime score 12-9 to the hosts.

In between, came a wonderful breakaway move out of defence from Wales, which sadly ended with centre Jonathan Davies being isolated; concussed skipper, Sam Warburton, having to depart the field of play; and a drop goal attempt by outside half Rhys Priestland sailing far wide of the uprights.

The second half followed a similar stop-start pattern to the first, thanks to the man in the middle with the metaphorical Number 31 on his back; and Halfpenny had a chance to draw Wales level, after yet another penalty award at the scrum – but his long range attempt struck an upright and was cleared by the defence.

Their relief did not last long, however – for on the hour, with the Welsh forwards battering away at the hosts' line, the again outstanding Ryan Jones, who earlier had to leave the field for blood repairs, plunged over for a deserved try under the posts, converted by Halfpenny to give Wales a 16-12 lead.

Almost immediately, as Wales lowered their guard, Australia clawed back a one-point lead with an unconverted try; but then Welsh scrum pressure told once more, to yield three more points for the boot of Halfpenny – and a slender 19-17 lead with just 10 minutes left on the clock.

As in the previous test, though, Welsh lack of control at a critical juncture coughed up yet another punishing penalty, to edge Australia 20-19 in front, with time fast running out.

That was the signal for Wales to belatedly send on the sadly under-used James Hook, who made an immediate impact with a typically instinctive chip-ahead and chase into space, easily outstripping defenders, but unluckily seeing the ball bounce into touch with the undefended line at his mercy.

It was to be Wales' last throw of the dice, as the final whistle signalled the end of a match (and a series) that the Grand Slam champions know was not so much won by a vastly superior, southern hemisphere side, as turned on frustrating flaws in their own game, which hopefully, can be ironed out by experience.

While talk of 'learning curves' and 'lessons to be learned' is now becoming tediously repetitive, it is also true to say that this fast-developing young Welsh squad have time on their side still, as they build towards Warren Gatland's main goal – the next Rugby World Cup – and other prime target milestones along the way.

More immediately, it will be fascinating to see if the painful experience of narrow, last-gasp defeats in three tests against a team, that after all, is ranked second in the world, can translate into a winning streak when the two hemispheres next clash in the autumn internationals at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

The fact that this prospect can even be contemplated, is testament to the remarkable strides made in the four short years since head coach Warren Gatland took over the helm of a national team that was once the laughing stock of world rugby.

It is something the critics would do well not to forget.

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Great start to cricket season

COWBRIDGE year-7 cricket team played their first match of the season against St John's College recently.

Cowbridge won the toss and put St John's in to bat. The innings was slow to start, with two maiden overs from Rhys Bradshaw and Ioan Griffiths.

Then the breakthrough came, with Rhys taking the first wicket with a lbw.

The second wicket came five overs later, with Tom Jose running out the batsman with an excellent throw.

At the end of the innings, St Johns College had scored 75 for seven, with Rhys, Tom, Angus James, Ioan Lewis and Jake Griffiths all taking one wicket, and with Bevan Howells taking two.

Rhys and Bevan then opened the batting, but within two balls, Bevan was out. Rhys stole the show and declared after scoring 36 runs; a fantastic batting performance, and Cowbridge won the game with four overs to spare.

Tom scored one run, Jake scored six, Josh Lloyd-Doyle scored four, Angus also scored four, with Ioan Lewis scoring two and Pradeep Nadig scoring one run.

Dan Marshall, Cameron Burgess and Dylan Lloyd-Doyle also played very well.

Player of the match was Rhys Bradshaw.

Cowbridge lady bowlers' easy win over Porthcawl

COWBRIDGE men bowlers played their two matches this week, but had to play both in the rain.

On the Wednesday in the Munro Cup, away at Penarth Belle Vue, they lost on all four rinks by 52-81.

There were two close games on skip Dennis Snelling's rink of Terry Dunsworth, Bryan Hole and Alan Wallace, going into the last end all square at 14-14.

They lost two shots on the last end to lose 14-16.

Skip Byron Richards' rink of Clive Pritchard, Mick Davey and Ron Woolford, were in a close game, only losing 12-15.

On the other two rinks, skip Len Taylor's lost 9-25, after losing by 0-20.

On Peter Launder's rink, they were winning 16-10, but lost 17-25.

On Saturday in the their league game away to Grange, again playing in the rain, they lost 57-109, but managed to win on one rink to get two valuable points.

The winning rink was skip Byron Richards' of Terry Dunsworth, Ron Woolford and David Jones, by 21-10.

The losing rinks were Dennis Snelling 21-26; Mike Bradley's 6-38 and Roger Barwick's 9-35.

The ladies played two of their three matches, with the league game at Llantwit Major for the second time being cancelled by rain.

In their Rose Bowl match away to Whitchurch Hospital, they lost 23-40.

The rink of Diane Purnell, Carol Davies, Jan Lewis and Joy Woolford lost 7-22.

The rink of Lynda Wilson, Sylvia Hole, Dorothy Pritchard and Pat Holdsworth only just lost by 16-18.

In the CCS at home to Porthcawl Ladies, they won 85-24.

Glenys Davies, Phyllis Price, Sue Flower and skip Kay Edwards won 21-10.

Diane Purnell, Barbara Slade, Pat Davey and skip Pat Holdsworth won 30-6, and on skip Helena Snelling's rink of Shirley Wilkinson, Thelma Jones and Joan Bradley, they won 34-8.

The coaching of Y Bont Faen Primary School on Friday morning was cancelled because of – wait for it – wind and rain. What a summer we are having!

NJW